



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-120
Thursday
24 June 1993

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FBIS-NES-93-120

CONTENTS

24 June 1993

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegates Comment on Progress at Bilateral Meetings	1
Arabs Reaffirm Positions [Amman TV]	1
Israelis Report No Change [Jerusalem Radio]	1
'Ashrawi Cited on Expected U.S. Draft Declaration [Amman Radio]	2
Palestinian Source on U.S. Draft on Jerusalem [MENA]	2
Al-'Allaf: Washington Talks Still Disappointing [Damascus Radio]	2
Rabinovich Rejects al-'Allaf Attack on Israel [Jerusalem Radio]	2
Lebanese Delegate Comments on Israeli Position [Beirut Radio]	3

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Meetings Said Marked by Stormy Sessions	3
Financial Crisis Discussed [London AL-HAYAH 20 Jun]	3
'Arafat Accused of Squandering Funds [Voice of Iraqi People]	3
Committee Reviews Peace Process [Algiers VOP]	4
'Arafat Comments on Meetings [AKHBAR AL-USBU* 24 Jun]	4
'Abd-Rabbuh Discusses Negotiations' Progress [Cairo International]	4
Al-Husayni Meets With Canadian Foreign Minister [Algiers VOP]	5
U.S. Initiatives Seen as Capitulation, Suicide [AL-NAHAR 23 Jun]	6
'Arafat to PLA: Be Ready To Police Gaza Soon [AL-WASAT 21-27 Jun]	6
Hamas Spokesman Ghawshah on Terrorism, Iran [London AL-HAYAH 20 Jun]	7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

State Council Discusses Security Situation [Algiers TV]	9
Terrorist Killed in Gun Battle With Police [Algiers Radio]	9
Sonatrach Agrees To Supply Gas to Turkey [Algiers Radio]	9

Egypt

AFF: Egyptian Charged With Spying for Israel	9
Two Security Guards Killed; Others Injured in Asyut [MENA]	9
Police Officer Gunned Down in Asyut Village [MENA]	9
Six Tons TNT Disappear From Chemical Company [AL-WAFD 19 Jun]	9
Al-Alfi Addresses Academy on Fighting Terrorism [MENA]	10
Apartment Block in Cairo Collapses; 11 Killed [AFP]	10
New Oil Prospecting Agreements Signed [MENA]	10
Cabinet Affairs Minister Leaves for London [MENA]	10
Economic Delegation Leaves for Talks With Paris Club [MENA]	11

Morocco

King Hassan 'Happy To Collaborate' With Winners [MAP]	11
---	----

Sudan

Egyptian Mission Starts Closing Consulates [MENA]	12
---	----

Western Sahara

Polisario Condemns Plan for Legislative Elections [Algiers Radio]	12
---	----

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Meets Christopher in Washington [WAKH] 13

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Ending Indirect Boycott of Israel [London AL-MAJALLAH 20-26 Jun] 13

Austria Reaffirms Support for UNSC Resolutions on Iraq [KUNA] 13

Interpol To Arrest 'Manipulators of Public Funds' [KUNA] 14

Oman

Agreement on British Challenger-2 Battle Tanks Signed [Muscat Radio] 14

Saudi Arabia

Industry Minister on Growth of Petrochemical Industry [SPA] 14

IRAQ

Mubarak Reportedly Warns of Possible U.S. Attack [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 24 Jun] 16

U.S. Newspaper Cited on 'Instability' in Kuwait [Voice of Youth] 16

Al-Tikriti Letter Urges Opposition Groups To Return [AKHBAR AL-USBU' 24 Jun] 16

PUK's Talabani Returns Home, Comments on Support [Voice of Kurdistan] 17

Regime Agent Arrested, Explosive Charge Defused [Voice of Kurdistan] 17

National Assembly Urges Support To Lift Embargo [Baghdad Radio] 17

RCC Issues Law on Supporting, Rewarding Scientists [Baghdad Radio] 17

ISRAEL

Rabin Says Jerusalem Not Matter for Negotiation [Jerusalem Radio] 18

Peres Says Accord With Palestinians Possible [HA'ARETZ 24 Jun] 18

United Arab Emirates Reportedly Eases Boycott [Jerusalem Radio] 18

Air Force Chief on Regional Missile Threat, Arrow [Tel Aviv Radio] 18

PRC Opens Defense Attache Office in Tel Aviv [HA'ARETZ 24 Jun] 19

Nepalese Prime Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit [Jerusalem Radio] 19

JORDAN

Media Analyzes Repercussions of King's U.S. Visit 20

Effects of 'Rapprochement' Viewed [JORDAN TIMES 24-25 Jun] 20

Outcome Should Influence Talks [SAWT AL-SHA'B 24 Jun] 21

Paper Urges Arab Meeting To Devise Strategy on Iraq [JORDAN TIMES 24-25 Jun] 21

Kuwaiti 'Bitterness' Not Cause for Revenge [JORDAN TIMES 17 Jun] 22

Palestinian Police Trainees Arrive in Amman 20 Jun [JORDAN TIMES 21 Jun] 22

Further on Police Training [AL-DUSTUR 21 Jun] 22

AL-RA'Y Wary of Japan Breaking Arab Boycott [19 Jun] 23

Arab Masses Party Licensed; Leadership Elected [AL-RA'Y 20 Jun] 23

Communist Party Protests Content of Mosque Sermons [JORDAN TIMES 19 Jun] 23

Brotherhood Urges Release of 'Political Detainees' [JORDAN TIMES 17-18 Jun] 24

Bank Reports 11.3 Percent Economic Growth Rate in 1992 [AL-RA'Y 22 Jun] 24

LEBANON

Bombs Found at Danish Embassy, Sidon Hall [VOL] 25

Four Arrested in Connection With 23 Jun Explosion [Beirut Radio] 25

Israeli Gunboats Said To Open Fire on Palestinian Camp [Beirut Radio] 25

Israeli Cobras Fire at Army Boat; Deportees Camp Hit [Beirut Radio] 25

Prime Minister Returns From Kuwait After 24-Hour Visit [Beirut Radio] 25

Kuwaiti Fund Lends 5 Million Dinars for Water Project [Beirut Radio] 25

Korean Company To Complete Power Project [VOM] 25

SYRIA

Media Comments on Potential of 10th Round Talks 26

'No Peace' Without Territories [Damascus Radio] 26

Effective U.S. Role Stressed [Damascus Radio] 26

'Shakeup' in U.S. Team Viewed [Damascus Radio] 27

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Fighting Postpones Kabul Cabinet Meeting [AFP]	29
--	----

Bangladesh

Agreements Signed for Japanese Grant Assistance [Dhaka Radio]	29
---	----

India

Finance Minister Interviewed on Economic Performance [Delhi Radio]	29
Investment Proposals Worth 6.2 Billion Rupees [Delhi Radio]	32
Commentary Details Foreign Investments Since 1991 [Delhi International]	32
Five Killed in 'Militancy-Related Incidents' [Delhi Radio]	33
Leader Confident BJP To Be Ruling Party [INDIAN EXPRESS 14 Jun]	33
Madhya Pradesh Governor Resigns 23 Jun. [Delhi Radio]	34

Iran

German Deputy Foreign Minister Visits, Holds Talks	34
Delivers Message for President [Tehran TV]	34
Discusses Ties, Bosnia With Velayati [Tehran Radio]	34
Meets Majles Vice Speaker Rohani [IRNA]	34
Security Council Annual Report Criticized [IRNA]	34
U.S. Uses 'Human Rights' as Intervention 'Tool' [IRNA]	35
UN Veto Said Against Human Rights Principles [IRNA]	35
Larijani Comments on DPRK Talks, Beijing Visit [IRNA]	35
New Railroad Linked to Central Asian Republics [Tehran Radio]	36
Iraqi Refugees Reluctant To Return Home [IRNA]	36
Iraqi Opposition Groups To Meet on Saddam Overthrow [KUNA]	36
Interior Minister Releases Election Statistics [Tehran TV]	37
Further Election Details [Tehran Radio]	38
More Statistics on Elections [IRNA]	38
Nateq-Nuri: Presidential Election Neutralized Plots [IRNA]	38
'Geopolitics' of Iranian Islands Issue Analyzed [PASDAR-E ESLAM 22 May-21 Jun]	38

Nepal

Communist Party Issues General Strike Call [AFP]	41
--	----

Pakistan

PDA To Join Committee on Constitution Amendments [Islamabad Radio]	41
Interior Minister on Kansai Raids, Government Powers [THE MUSLIM 23 Jun]	41
Balochistan Governor Meets President on Problems [Islamabad Radio]	42
Sharif Visits Bosnian Refugees, Inspects Facilities [Islamabad TV]	42
Police Official Picked as Intelligence Bureau Chief [THE NATION 23 Jun]	42
General Beg on Nuclear Tension With India [THE NATION 22 Jun]	42
Foreign Secretary Visits UK, Discusses Kashmir [Islamabad Radio]	44

Sri Lanka

LTTE To Release 39 Detainees in Exchange for Goods [Colombo International]	44
Military Concerned Over Shipments to LTTE Areas [AFP]	45

Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegates Comment on Progress at Bilateral Meetings

Arabs Reaffirm Positions

JN2306190493 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1711 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Report by Jordan Television Correspondent Salim 'Ali Dhiyah in Washington- -recorded]

[Text] As observers here in Washington assert that a U.S. move will be made in the next few days to promote the stalled peace process, negotiations, now in their second day, have continued to deal with topics on the agenda of each track. However, the information we have received from sources in the four Arab delegations does not point to a worthwhile breakthrough. There is nothing new to report on the Jordanian-Israeli track.

Meanwhile, there has been no change on the Palestinian-Israeli track:

[Begin Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi recording] The emphasis is now put on the talks with the U.S. side. These talks have two parts: A political part dealing with Palestinian-U.S. relations, the official U.S. policy and its full bias toward the Israeli side in the negotiations, and its impact on the negotiating process. The other part deals with a comprehensive and accurate Palestinian presentation to the U.S. side of the Palestinian declaration of principles in a way that does not repeat the mistake made in the previous round of talks. [end recording]

The Syrian delegation chief urged Israel not to mix security arrangements with the security order demanded by Israel and rejected by Syria:

[Begin Syrian chief delegate Muwaffaq al-'Allaf recording] Syria actually does not oppose the security arrangements as long as they respect certain principles, namely, that they should be identical on both sides and do not encroach on the sovereignty or security of any party. [end recording]

As for the Lebanese-Israeli track, the proposals made by each party are still unacceptable to the other party, despite the fact that the Lebanese proposal on setting up a Lebanese-Israeli committee and on the UN troops in southern Lebanon is an acceptable proposal, according to observers here:

[Begin Lebanese chief delegate Suhayl Shammas recording] Israel should admit it is an occupation force. Until it does so, it will be difficult to find a common language which will enable us to lay down a common ground. We also cannot accept a mechanism that only discusses security arrangements. [end recording]

Israelis Report No Change

TA2406050493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] No progress was achieved in Israel's talks with Syria and Lebanon in Washington yesterday. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is still awaiting clarifications from Syria before he decides whether to launch a shuttle mission to the Middle East. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports from Washington:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Damascus is digging in its heels regarding its demand for an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal. The Syrians reiterated that such a commitment is a precondition for progress in the negotiations. Israel reacted by saying it wants to achieve progress, but the right way to accomplish this is by Syria accepting Israel's needs in terms of the substance of peace and the security arrangements. Rabinovich said that the peace agreement should not be merely a prescription for implementing Resolution 242. It is true that the peace process is partly based on this resolution, but any attempt to limit the discussion to the implementation of this decision, without also discussing peace and security issues, proves that Syria's intentions are unclear. Rabinovich says that a compromise is inevitable, because that is the only thing that will enable Syria and Israel to reach an understanding on the rudiments of the negotiations—namely, peace, security, and withdrawal.

[Rabinovich] There is no change in the dynamics and framework of our negotiations with Syria. The Syrian delegation is apparently operating on the basis of instructions calling on them, on the one hand, to preserve the framework and the matter-of-fact atmosphere in the negotiations while, on the other hand, to continue to insist on the acceptance of its position on withdrawal as a precondition for any substantial progress or for giving us details on the main issues we posed.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 24 June adds: "Israeli sources in Washington assess there will be no progress in the talks with Syria until President al-Asad clarifies the nature of his relations with the new U.S. Administration."]

[Golan] The situation is very similar on the Israeli-Lebanese track. This is what Uri Lubrani had to say:

[Lubrani] There is a stalemate on our track, but the parties are trying to present a picture of progress. I am familiar with the situation along the other tracks. The situation on our track, however, is dependent solely on the Syrian track. [end recording]

No progress was made along the Israeli-Palestinian track as well. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that last night the sides discussed various clauses relating to the document of principles, but the discussion did not reach the point of formulating these clauses. Israeli and Palestinian sources told our correspondent they believe that the U.S. bridging paper, which deals mainly with Jerusalem, will be submitted early next week.

'Ashrawi Cited on Expected U.S. Draft Declaration

JN2406065793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The Arab and Israeli delegations to the bilateral peace negotiations held more talks in Washington last night amidst amazement at the U.S. Secretary of State's statement that he expects good progress in the current round of negotiations. Details are in the following report:

Reports from Washington give particular attention to developments on the Palestinian-Israeli track of talks, especially in light of U.S. State Department contacts with both sides to remove obstacles in the way of reaching a joint declaration of principles.

Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi yesterday said that the Americans will present the Palestinians and Israelis with a new draft declaration of principles. In a news conference held in Washington, Dr. 'Ashrawi added that she does not know the contents of this draft declaration, but hoped it would lead to overcoming the still very serious differences between the two sides. 'Ashrawi said that any joint declaration of principles which provides an outline for Palestinian autonomy in the occupied territories should deal with the Jerusalem issue.

Reports on U.S. efforts to bridge differences between the Palestinians and Israelis coincided with yesterday's statement by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he expects good progress during the coming days of peace talks. Christopher said that he is personally working to achieve progress in the talks based on a U.S. promise to play a full partner role.

Palestinian sources yesterday said that senior U.S. State Department officials are holding daily meetings with Palestinian and Israeli representatives to pave the way for such intervention.

On the Syrian-Israeli track of talks, sources from both delegations said that the two sides last night discussed Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights without achieving even minimal progress. On leaving the U.S. State Department where meetings are being held, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, told reporters that the two sides resumed discussion on an Israeli withdrawal without achieving even minimal progress. He renewed Syria's demand that Israel should pledge to fully withdraw from the occupied Golan and other occupied territories.

Al-'Allaf's Israeli counterpart Itamar Rabinovich said that no progress was achieved, noting the need for a Syrian political stand that would respond to Israeli proposals on a peaceful settlement.

Both sides of the Lebanese-Israeli track of talks said that no progress was achieved and refrained from giving any further details.

Palestinian Source on U.S. Draft on Jerusalem

NC2306210693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—A Palestinian source in Cairo has stated that Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator at the peace talks, handed the Palestinian delegation an unofficial draft [sighah] on jurisdiction [nitaq al-wilayah al-jughrafiyah], which includes the city of Jerusalem. The source said that according to this draft, Arab residents of the city will participate in elections and the jurisdiction will cover services, such as education and health, in the city of Jerusalem. The draft stipulates that the final status of Jerusalem will be determined in the final phase of the negotiations.

Al-'Allaf: Washington Talks Still Disappointing

JN2306204893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has said the results of the five meetings of the 10th round of talks are still disappointing. In a statement following today's meeting, he said the meeting had not produced any progress. He voiced the hope that progress will be made by the end of this round on 1 July.

He pointed out that today's discussion centered on the fifth clause of the Syrian document pertaining to Israel's total withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. He added: We are, however, still facing Israel's obstacles and its refusal to commit itself to this issue.

Asked if the American sponsor wanted to do anything about these talks, al-'Allaf said: Since we are trying to make progress, everything the Americans do to ensure such progress—in harmony with the principles and resolutions on which the peace process was founded, as well as their pledge to play a fair full partner role—will be welcome.

Rabinovich Rejects al-'Allaf Attack on Israel

TA2306165893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] This evening, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher expressed optimism that the current round of peace talks will yield something eventually. At the same time, however, the talks on two of the more important tracks, with the Syrians and the Palestinians, are deadlocked. The Americans are not intervening and have not placed any mediating papers on the negotiating tables. Our correspondent in Washington Razi Barqay has just filed the following report:

[Begin recording] [Barqay] This evening we again witnessed the frustrating daily ceremony: The delegates walk into the State Department building; stop for a few minutes to address the reporters waiting outside; and try to explain why no progress is being made. This evening we again witnessed the routine verbal exchange between

Itamar Rabinovich and Muwaffaq al-'Allaf. The head of the Syrian delegation started this time. We are stuck, he said, because the new Israeli Government came to the world with plenty of promises, which it has not kept.

[Al-'Allaf, in English] This lack of progress is due to the failure of the Israeli Government itself to fulfill its promise: Its promise that it is changing the policy of the former government of Mr. Shamir, and working seriously in order to achieve peace. We have not seen any indication of that promise in the contacts with the Israeli delegation here in the negotiations.

[Barqay] Soon after this, an Arab reporter asked Itamar Rabinovich whether it is true that there is, in fact, no difference between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yitzhaq Shamir.

This government does not intend to apologize, Israel's U.S. ambassador said, lightly reprimanding the Arab reporter for his one-sided views.

[Rabinovich, in English] I do not think we need to either explain or certainly not apologize for Israeli Government's policies. I think this government has a very distinct character and policy. It is for all to see, and if one does not see that, then it must be in the eye of the beholder.

[Barqay] Another day of routine talks begins in Washington, and this evening, as well, we are unable to report on progress. [end recording]

Lebanese Delegate Comments on Israeli Position *NC2406080193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 24 Jun 93*

[Text] There was no progress in the round of talks held yesterday in Washington between the Lebanese and Israeli delegations within the framework of the 10th round of the peace negotiations.

Head of the Lebanese delegation Ambassador Suhayl Shammass said that yesterday's discussions dealt with all the issues and that the stands remain very far apart. He added that the Lebanese delegation is insisting that the Israelis review the means they are using to achieve their objectives but they must ensure their complete withdrawal from all the occupied Lebanese territories to the internationally recognized borders. He said that this is the only way to make progress on the Lebanese-Israeli track and continue the progress toward achieving the ultimate objective of the peace conference.

Shammass went on to say: If the Israelis decide not to negotiate through the media, then they will find us responsive, except for one thing, namely that our stands will remain far apart as long as there are occupied Lebanese territories and as long as they do not change the expressions they use. If such is the case, the differences will remain fundamental.

Palestinian Affairs

Fatah Meetings Said Marked by Stormy Sessions

Financial Crisis Discussed

*PM2306132793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
20 Jun 93 pp 1, 4*

[Mazin al-Saghir report: "PLO's Financial Crisis Caused Storming of Tripoli Embassy"]

[Excerpts] Tunis, London, AL-HAYAH—Meetings of the Central Committee of Fatah, the biggest PLO faction, began in Tunis yesterday under the chairmanship of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The meetings will be devoted to discussing developments in the Palestinian issue and conditions in the PLO, especially the financial crisis it is experiencing. [passage omitted]

Palestinian sources say that the prominent topic on the agenda of the Fatah Central Committee meetings is the PLO's financial crisis, which has begun to emerge severely in some PLO offices, as happened in Tripoli, Libya, five days ago, when a number of PLO members protested by storming the Palestinian embassy there to demand the salaries they had not received.

In this context Palestinian sources in London have pointed out that Palestinian cadres demanding their salaries clashed with embassy officials and guards—which led to injuries on both sides. The clash was stopped after Libyan security forces intervened forcefully. A Palestinian source pointed out that one or two were killed in the clash, in which arms were used. But independent sources said that they could not confirm that. They just said the corroborated information is that a number of people were wounded.

Palestinian sources in Tunis did not rule out the possibility of further similar clashes if the PLO's financial crisis continues. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Accused of Squandering Funds

NC2306152393 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Sharp differences have emerged during the Tunis meetings of the Fatah Movement, the biggest PLO faction. In a stormy session, Fatah member Muhammad Ghunaym, alias Abu-Mahir, publicly accused Yasir 'Arafat of squandering PLO money and illegally transferring some of it to dictator Saddam Husayn's regime. The PLO chairman also came in for strong criticism for embroiling the Palestinians, getting them to adopt a pro-Saddam position during the invasion of Kuwait, something that was a departure from the unanimous Arab rejection of the invasion.

Committee Reviews Peace Process

LD2306182093 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee continued its third day of work in Tunis yesterday under the chairmanship of brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. Wafa, the Palestinian news agency, reports that the progress of the peace process in the Middle East, and the state of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations in Washington headed the items on the agenda. The agency confirmed that the work centered on the stalemate position of the peace negotiations in the light of Israeli intransigence and Israel's attempts to hamper the peaceful process by ignoring the letters of invitation and guarantees.

It also said that the Fatah Central Committee debated the exclusion of Jerusalem as an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as the Israeli and American sides abandoning their promises to push forward the peace process.

The Central Committee also discussed the situation in the occupied areas and the constant breaches of human rights there. It will debate the financial siege imposed on Palestinian organizations and the need to develop the Palestinian economic structure, which the Israeli occupation authorities have been trying to keep underdeveloped.

'Arafat Comments on Meetings

JN2406102693 *Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic*
24 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Tunis—Exclusive—AKHBAR AL-USBU'—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat has said that the United States withdrew its recent draft declaration of principles after the Palestinian side insisted on amending it.

In an exclusive telephone conversation with AKHBAR AL-USBU', Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] added that the United States will introduce important amendments to the declaration of principles so that it would become fair and balanced.

'Arafat said that the Palestinian delegation reaffirmed its adherence to Jerusalem, geographical jurisdiction, and the issue of settlements, as well as its insistence on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242, which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Commenting on the results of meetings held by the Fatah Movement Central Committee, Abu-'Ammar said that these meetings were stormy and that they witnessed a heated debate on Palestinian developments and various aspects of the situation inside the occupied territories, particularly cases of severe hunger from which the people over there are suffering as a result of arbitrary

Israeli measures. 'Arafat said that the Fatah Movement Central Committee reached excellent solutions to all the topics listed on the agenda.

'Arafat noted the arrival of some Palestinians in Jordan to be trained at Jordanian police and security institutions. He said: I asked my brother His Majesty King Husayn to assist us in training 30 people for guard missions to protect certain Palestinian figures from Zionist attacks. We also sent groups to be trained in Egypt, Morocco, and some fraternal and friendly countries.

Concluding his statement, Abu-'Ammar said that he will visit Cairo to take part in the OAU meetings as an observer.

'Arafat said that the Fatah Movement Central Committee meetings, which opened four days ago, will end in Tunis today.

'Abd-Rabbuh Discusses Negotiations' Progress

NC2406092893 *Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic* 0510
GMT 24 Jun 93

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the PLO executive committee, in Tunis, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] The 10th round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks has entered its second week. There is some kind of optimism about the possible outcome of this round, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli level. How do you view this round?

['Abd-Rabbuh] Actually, it is still hard to judge the outcome of this round optimistically, especially because of Israeli intransigence at the negotiating table and Israel's measures in the land itself.

At the negotiating table, the Israeli side insists on not recognizing that the Palestinian territories are occupied and on not treating them as a single regional entity. The Israeli side wants to treat them as parts; in other words, the Palestinians should have control of some parts, through cities, villages, and populated areas, while Israeli control remains on the rest of the occupied territories. By doing so, the Palestinian entity and its ingredients will be abolished.

As for what actually happens in the land, there are measures that isolate the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem is not only the spiritual capital of Palestinians, Muslims, and Christians. It is also the economic, social, cultural, and political capital of the Palestinians. There can be no economic life in the occupied territories without Jerusalem. Therefore, these measures aim to divide the Palestinian land and impose a fait accompli situation to apply pressure at the negotiating table, and that is why I say it is difficult to talk about optimism.

We believe that without halting these measures that isolate Jerusalem and impose an economic blockade on the Gaza Strip and large parts of the West Bank, and without adherence to and respect for the terms of reference of the peace process, especially Resolution 242, which regards the Palestinian territories as occupied land, and without any transitional arrangements to end occupation of the Palestinian land, we cannot see any other way to emerge from this whirlpool and deadlock.

[Husayn] What is your response to reports that there is dissent in the Palestinian political street and within the Palestinian organizations over whether it is useful to pursue the peace process?

[Abd-Rabbuh] Actually, there is no dissent. However, there are positions and views and minority and majority opinions, as is the case elsewhere in the world, including Israel itself. Our Palestinian institutions have made the decision to participate in the political process. When these legitimate Palestinian institutions that are recognized by all forces of Palestine see that there is no use in continuing the process, they will make a proper decision at the appropriate time.

We regard the political process as one of the Palestinian people's arenas of struggle but not the only arena. Adherence to the bases of international legitimacy and to our legitimate national goals will enhance our ongoing struggle in the land to end the occupation of our homeland and secure our people's self-determination and the return of the refugees to their homeland.

[Husayn] Some Palestinian organizations, such as Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and others, are receiving foreign backing, and this strengthens the trends of opposition or political rejection within the Palestinian groups. How do you view this situation?

[Abd-Rabbuh] We are always asking why this backing exists, just when the siege of the PLO, the Palestinian delegation, and the Palestinian people in the occupied territories is being tightened. We are asking this question because the PLO raised the banner of the peace process and called for the start of a political and negotiating process when it made its peace initiative in 1988. Yet this siege and these pressures are intensifying. We believe that there is a link here and it involves political objectives. Maybe those who do not want to achieve a just peace—whether in Israel or elsewhere—are also trying to benefit from the existence of the so-called extremist trends at the Palestinian and Arab levels.

[Husayn] Do you believe that Iran has a role in supporting such movements?

[Abd-Rabbuh] Iran has declared that it is sponsoring Hamas. We do not believe that it is in the interest of either Iran or any other party to try to plant the seeds of division because, you know, this is a double-edged sword.

[Husayn] We move to the role of the full partner and the U.S. role in the peace process. The U.S. delegation in charge of following the talks has held contacts in the past few days with the negotiating teams, including the Palestinian delegation. Can you describe the characteristics of this role so far and what could be achieved in the peace process if the United States exerts greater pressure on Israel?

[Abd-Rabbuh] So far, the U.S. side is proposing to us what is called the draft of a political statement. It includes some points of agreement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. We stress that if such a political statement does not include an agreement on the main issues, especially the issue of territories and letting the Palestinian authority have control of the territories, then this political statement will be ineffective and will only give false hopes. Consequently, this will lead to a setback for the peace process. This is why we are stressing the need to have a declaration of political principles that tackles the major basic issues in the political process, that is, the issue of control of the territories, the issue of the [Israeli] settlements, and the issue of Jerusalem. It should also deal with the issue of elections so as to ensure the establishment of a Palestinian council that will have legislative and legal authority. If agreement is reached on all these issues, then they could be the key to progress. But ignoring these issues and dealing with secondary and marginal ones will maintain the vicious circle and this will not help the political process. It is within this framework that the dialogue was held between us and the U.S. side. We are in the middle of the 10th round, and this dialogue has not been completed yet.

[Husayn] The issue of a meeting between President Yasir 'Arafat and Yitzhaq Rabin has also been raised. Is the Palestinian side willing to hold such a meeting?

[Abd-Rabbuh] We have made a public call for a meeting of the bold to create the peace of the bold, as brother Yasir 'Arafat has called it. That was not the personal call of brother 'Arafat but the decision of the Palestine National Council. This is the substance and essence of the Palestinian peace initiative: Come, let us sit down at the negotiating table as two equal parties to discuss the issues and future relations based on ending the occupation and also based on balanced and equal rights in accordance with international legitimacy. That was our appeal, which the other side continues to reject, because the latter wants in fact to maintain the current situation and avoid committing itself to the requirements and resolutions of international legitimacy.

Al-Husayni Meets With Canadian Foreign Minister

LD2306185193 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Brother Faysal al-Husayni, leader [as heard] of the Palestinian team at the peace negotiations, had an

official meeting with Canadian Foreign Minister Barbara McDougall at which he reviewed the latest developments in the current negotiations. He stressed that the major stumbling block to any progress is Israel's refusal to accept that the declaration of principles includes the question of Jerusalem and the building of settlements. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni was accompanied on his one-day visit at the invitation of the Canadian Foreign Ministry by the PLO representative in Canada Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman. He was given an official welcome.

Diplomatic and political circles consider this event to reflect a change in Canada's stand toward the PLO. This is the first time a Canadian foreign minister has received a PLO representative.

Joseph Clark, Canada's minister for constitutional affairs, described the meeting as an historical moment for which we have waited 20 years. [passage omitted]

U.S. Initiatives Seen as Capitulation, Suicide

TA2306160093 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
23 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Decision Is Not Subject to Bargaining"]

[Text] In a U.S. attempt to salvage the stalled talks in Washington, especially in the Palestinian-Israeli track, the Americans submitted a compromise proposal on a draft declaration of principles regarding self-rule in the occupied territories. During the ninth round in May, the Palestinians had rejected a draft presented by the Americans and considered it to be biased toward the Israeli positions. The declaration of principles is supposed to define the powers that will be granted to the future Palestinian authority, its legal status, and jurisdiction over the land. All plans and proposals are colliding with the issue of East Jerusalem and the settlements in the occupied territories. The U.S. Administration is exerting pressure on the Palestinian side to accept the new U.S. proposals that call for postponing discussion of the issue of Jerusalem until after agreement is reached on the transitional stage. In return, Israel will initiate goodwill gestures focused on improving the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, easing the economic pressures and burdens imposed on Palestinians, and granting more freedom for political activity in the occupied territories.

If the Palestinians are leaning toward accepting the new U.S. draft declaration of principles, at the same time they are insisting on implementation of the letter of guarantees that embraces their position on the Jerusalem issue. Since Israel occupied the Arab part of the city 26 years ago, the official U.S. stance on Jerusalem has been that it cannot remain under Israeli sovereignty with all its parts and that a solution acceptable to all the parties should be reached over this issue. At this stage of the negotiations, however, the Americans do not want to

underscore this position so as not to hurt the feelings of Israelis, who consider united Jerusalem as "their eternal capital." Thus, the issue of Jerusalem has turned into a major obstacle in the talks after the attempts made to avoid addressing this question since the beginning of the peace process 20 months ago.

The Palestinians did not raise this issue to paralyze the 10th round talks. After isolating Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories, Israel is endeavoring to create a fait accompli on the land in contradiction of the peace process. By so doing, it is trying to circumvent the issue of Jerusalem so that there will be no room in the future to discuss this question. The United States is required to affirm its clear position by not recognizing Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem and requesting Israel avoid taking any unilateral action that might affect the final outcome.

The United States' attempt to appease the Palestinians by promising that if they agree to the new U.S. declaration of principles it will reconsider resuming dialogue with the PLO or that it will use its influence with the Gulf states to resume financial aid to the Palestinian people is no more than a step to bribe the Palestinians into accepting the U.S. conditions. The attempt to blackmail the Palestinians in this shameful way will have the worst results, not because the Palestinian decision is not subject to bargaining and sale but because the Palestinian people, who have lost everything, still adhere to their dignity and pride.

The Palestinians, who decided to enter into negotiations with Israel to end the historic conflict, did not embark on this step in order to sign a document of capitulation and suicide. Rather, they attempted to achieve their rights by peaceful means so that they would be able to launch a revival after suffering many calamities.

'Arafat to PLA: Be Ready To Police Gaza Soon

PM2406102493 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
21-27 Jun 93 p1

[Unattributed report: "From Our Own Sources"]

[Text] An informed Palestinian source has told AL-WASAT that during his latest visit to Amman President Yasir 'Arafat met with the commander and officers of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] in Jordan and told them: "Be ready to assume police duties in the Gaza Strip soon."

A Jordanian politician has confirmed that 'Arafat asked King Husayn to mediate with President Bill Clinton and ask him to put pressure on Israel not to withdraw abruptly from the Gaza Strip. The Jordanian politician said that the Palestinian president talked about the return of the Gaza Strip as a matter taken for granted.

Hamas Spokesman Ghawshah on Terrorism, Iran
PM2306150193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 20 Jun 93 p 3

[Interview with Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, Islamic Resistance Movement, by unidentified correspondent in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] Islam is being subjected to a propaganda campaign in the West, associating it with terrorism. Do you believe that it is to do with the "foreign conspiracy" idea, the practices of some Islamic movements, or both?

[Ghawshah] The first person to accuse Islamic movements of terrorism was former Israeli President Chaim Herzog, who tried to promote this in Europe. Then (Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin continued the accusation through the Zionist media machine, while the Jewish state continues to kill children, demolish homes, and deport the Palestinian people.

That concept should not be promoted because of a certain party's domination of an oppressed party. And the world should do the Palestinian people justice, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is in the forefront of the resistance movements.

And to confirm our concept of the jihad and legitimate and legal resistance, Hamas is the only Palestinian movement that does not carry out any operations outside the occupied Palestinian territory aimed against the United States or the Jews.

This was proved after it had been ascertained that there was no link between Hamas and the World Trade Center explosion in New York. U.S. and Zionist media services tried to link Hamas with the incident.

[AL-HAYAH] What is the nature of the relationship between Hamas and Iran, which is accused of encouraging and supporting terrorism?

[Ghawshah] The relationship between Hamas and Iran is exaggerated merely to promote the idea that Hamas is run by Iran, which is a terrorist state!! The movement understands that the Palestinian issue is an Arab Islamic issue and that Jerusalem and al-Aqsa Mosque are for the Arabs and Muslims. This is why we opened up to and made contacts with the Arab and Islamic regimes, seeking support. The relationship with Iran lies in this framework, just like Hamas' relationship with Jordan, Qatar, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Sudan, and all the Islamic states.

[AL-HAYAH] Some elements affiliated to fundamentalist tendencies practise acts of violence and kill innocent people.

[Ghawshah] Hamas is struggling against the Israeli occupation forces, which show no mercy toward innocent women and children. And it is careful to fight the occupation soldiers and settlers only. And any Islamic

movement should be careful too. Any bombings aimed against the people, children, and women can only be linked to forces associated with the enemies of Islam, who benefit from such actions.

I recall that in 1954 there was a struggle between the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and the government. Mosad intervened and carried out bombings, trying to give the impression that the Brotherhood was behind these bombings to justify the government's strike at them and also to show that the regime is shaky and unfit to govern. It was known as the Lavon scandal. I believe that such conditions could be in existence.

[AL-HAYAH] Is it possible to know Hamas' assessment of Libya's dispatch of citizens to occupied Jerusalem?

[Ghawshah] First of all, religiously, there is no pilgrimage to Jerusalem. But politically, the travel [to Jerusalem] by the so-called Libyan pilgrims is a breach of the wall of nonnormalization between the Arabs and the Jews, who managed to find a gap in it as a prelude for new breaches.

[AL-HAYAH] What message were you eager to convey to the Americans, and what were their interests and questions during the contacts made with the U.S. Embassy in Amman?

[Ghawshah] The Islamic movement is generally conscious and comprehensive [shamilah] [sentence as published]. No movement can cocoon itself. It must open up to the world. We follow the example of the prophet, peace be upon him, who sent messages to the Roman caesar and the Persian king, calling them to dialogue and Islam. Thus Hamas decided to open up internationally and chose the timing of deportees issue in December 1992 to do that. Contacts were made and messages sent to the five permanent member states of the Security Council through their embassies in Amman, including the U.S. Embassy, to prevent the deportation crime.

[AL-HAYAH] Did the other embassies receive the messages in Hamas' office or in their offices?

[Ghawshah] The others received the messages in their embassies because time was very limited.

[AL-HAYAH] Was the meeting in your office the only one of its kind?

[Ghawshah] That meeting was reinforced by another meeting on 19 January at the Americans' request. We discussed the deportees issue, the issue of terrorism, its definition, Hamas' view of the negotiations, and Hamas' nature as a resistance movement. The meeting dealt also with a U.S. offer to reactivate the post-1967 deportees issue, and they asked our opinion of this offer.

[AL-HAYAH] And how did the Americans react to your proposals?

[Ghawshah] We encountered understanding from all parties, because these states experienced occupation and

understand every people's right to defend their territory. [sentence as published] We in Hamas are open and willing to let others hear our voice firsthand, and not through biased, inaccurate, or untrue reports. We are willing to talk with all. These states are also interested in listening to and talking with influential forces on the Palestinian scene like Hamas.

[AL-HAYAH] Was there a repetition of these meetings?

[Ghawshah] We met twice with the Americans, the British, the Germans, and the Italians. And meetings were held recently with some European states.

[AL-HAYAH] Did you act as a substitute for the PLO at those meetings?

[Ghawshah] We were not a substitute for the PLO. But the brothers possess a sensitivity that is uncalled for. Because Hamas is an Islamic movement that is entitled to express itself. And there are Palestinian factions that meet with various international and Western quarters, expressing themselves too. But the PLO's reaction had not been expected. The PLO put pressure on the United States, made threats, and demanded that the U.S. dialogue with Hamas be suspended.

[AL-HAYAH] And when were the meetings suspended?

[Ghawshah] Before U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour of the region in February, we requested a meeting with the U.S. ambassador. What we were offered was that an embassy diplomat would come to see us, but we refused and insisted on a meeting with the ambassador. The dialogue was suspended two weeks before the U.S. State Department spokesman announced the suspension of the dialogue with Hamas.

What is important is not the conducting of the dialogue, but its substance.

[AL-HAYAH] What did the Americans' question about Hamas' nature mean?

[Ghawshah] They asked whether Hamas agrees to the negotiations, and our answer was that we reject the negotiations. They asked about Hamas and terrorism, and we pointed out that the movement is fighting the occupation forces and settlers and that we do not harm children and the elderly as Rabin is doing. And that all

our operations are carried out inside Israel and we do not carry out any operations abroad.

We also said that Hamas learned from some mistakes made by the Palestinian resistance in the past, because we find it is meaningless to hijack or blow up an aircraft. And the world respects us when we fight the occupier on our territory, just as it respected the French and Norwegian resistance against the Nazis and the Vietnamese resistance against the United States.

[AL-HAYAH] In your political rhetoric you talk about the Muslim Palestinian people and the Islamic resistance, although Christian brothers participate in the resistance with their money and lives?

[Ghawshah] They are part of the Muslim Arab Palestinian people, and we do not exclude them from the equation. We look after them as demanded by Islam. Their presence and that of the other minorities in Palestine and the Arab and Islamic countries for 14 centuries is evidence of Islam's magnanimity and of the long-standing strong relations among Christian and Muslim families. There has never been a problem, and Hamas respects the Christian brothers. Hamas canceled many strikes [work stoppages] on Christian festivals. And they voted for Hamas in the chamber of commerce elections in Ramallah in May last year.

[AL-HAYAH] Have you made any contacts with Cairo over Palestinian detainees in Egypt?

[Ghawshah] We value Egypt highly and hope, as we have been promised, that 60 Palestinian detainees from the Gaza Strip will be released as soon as possible in order to move them to any Arab country that will accept them. Twenty-five of them belong to Hamas.

[AL-HAYAH] What are the points of disagreement with the PLO, and are there any points on which an agreement could be reached?

[Ghawshah] We told Abu-'Ammar [Yasar 'Arafat] that one person or more cannot impose on the people the process he is engaged in. We told him of the need to refer to the people, who are making sacrifices daily. They deserve to be consulted over their future. This is why we always demand that their opinion be sought and that the National Council be formed through elections, and we will accept any percentage the people give Hamas.

Algeria

State Council Discusses Security Situation

LD2306200093 *Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] met at the presidency today under Ali Kafi. It discussed the security situation in the wake of the cowardly assassination of Mr. Mohamed Boukhobza, member of the National Consultative Council and acting director of the national institute for global strategic studies. While the HSC stresses its profound sympathy with the Boukhobza family, it appeals to the cadres of the nation to be on the alert and in a state of continuous mobilization. The assassination of Mr. Mohamed Boukhobza expresses in its bestiality the confusion of those who are left only with the prospect of scorched earth. This crime will not go unpunished.

Terrorist Killed in Gun Battle With Police

LD2306222493 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Excerpt] The command of the National Gendarmerie has reported that one terrorist was killed and another injured between Sidi Moussa and Chebli near Blida town. According to the same source, the two terrorist were aboard a Renault Trafic vehicle with Algiers registration plates when they were stopped by a gendarmerie patrol. Following a gun battle, one terrorist was killed and the other managed to escape after being injured; a search is under way to find him. [passage omitted]

Sonatrach Agrees To Supply Gas to Turkey

LD2306223893 *Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] The state oil company Sonatrach is to supply Turkey with 2 million tonnes of butane gas and liquefied propane in accordance with any agreement signed by Sonatrach this month with the Turkish Tupras company. The five-year agreement begins this July and follows an agreement signed by Sonatrach in 1988 with the Turkish Botas company.

Egypt

AFP: Egyptian Charged With Spying for Israel

NC2306212093 *Paris AFP in English 2030 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, June 23 (AFP)—An Egyptian man has been charged with spying for Israel for the past six years, the government newspaper AL-AKHBAR reports in its Thursday edition.

The unnamed suspect worked in the shipping sector and was trained in espionage in Cyprus and Turkey, the daily said. He is currently being interrogated, it added.

Another Egyptian, convicted of spying for Israel and sentenced to death in May of last year, was hanged 10 days ago.

Two Security Guards Killed; Others Injured in Asyut

NC2406100393 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 24 Jun 93*

[Text] Asyut, 24 Jun (MENA)—Two soldiers guarding the Dayrut Intelligence Center in Asyut Governorate in Upper Egypt were killed when unidentified men fired on them and fled. Three other soldiers in the same force were injured as a result of the shooting. Asyut Security Director Major General Mahmud 'Antar and other security commanders went to the scene of the incident. Security agencies in Asyut continue their efforts to arrest the culprits while the Dayrut prosecution office has begun investigations under counsellor Muhammad 'Ali, public attorney at the prosecution office of north Asyut.

Police Officer Gunned Down in Asyut Village

NC2306230393 *Cairo MENA in Arabic 2228 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Asyut, Upper Egypt, 23 Jun (MENA)—Thabit Muhammad Bakkarah, a noncommissioned police officer working with the Abu Tij Police Force, was martyred this evening when unidentified persons shot him in front of his home in the village of Baqut before escaping. Leading security figures from Asyut and forensic experts went to the scene to investigate the circumstances. Security men are trying to find the attackers.

Six Tons TNT Disappear From Chemical Company

NC2306162093 *Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Jun 93 p 1*

[Report by Ahmad Radi]

[Excerpt] A report by a senior security agency reveals the police do not adequately supervise the transport and storage of the highly explosive TNT used in quarries and chemical factories. This, says the report, helps terrorists to use explosives in their attacks. The report, received by Interior Minister Hasan al-Ali, reveals that six tons of TNT have disappeared from a chemical company.

The report notes leniency by the Interior Ministry's licensing department, which supervises the storage of explosive material. It transpires that the department does not keep full lists of the places and amounts of explosives and how they are transported. The report condemns the Directorate of Civil Defense and Fire in Cairo and the governorates for failing to effectively inspect explosives stores belonging to quarries and chemical companies. [passage omitted]

Al-Alfi Addresses Academy on Fighting Terrorism
*NC2306140593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT
23 Jun 93*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has stated that the police are waging a ferocious battle against terrorist elements who want to break every green branch in our secure homeland. He said our responsibility is not only to settle the battle against terrorist elements in favor of security and stability, for this is an undisputed outcome. The real problem is to settle this battle in the shortest possible time to minimize the material and moral losses suffered by the homeland and citizens.

Addressing the graduation of police officers at the Police Academy this morning, al-Alfi said the police force's battle against terrorist elements is inevitable. He mentioned a number of brakes and controls governing the confrontation with the terrorist elements, the most important of which is that efforts should concentrate on fighting these elements alone without hurting ordinary citizens. The aim of these brakes and controls is to enhance the positive nature of the confrontation instead of haphazardness and to attract millions of honest citizens to cooperate with and support the police force. [passage omitted]

Apartment Block in Cairo Collapses; 11 Killed
*NC2406105793 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT
24 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, June 24 (AFP)—Eleven people were killed and eight injured Thursday as two apartment blocks crashed to the ground in a poor district of the Egyptian capital, police said.

Rescue workers saved eight people, after one building collapsed and cracked a neighbouring block which also fell.

MENA news agency said the top floor of the first block was to have been demolished but the occupants refused to move out of their flats in the working-class district of Darb al-Ahmar, northeast Cairo.

More than 550 people in and around Cairo were killed in an earthquake on October 12, many of them in slum districts with sub-standard housing.

New Oil Prospecting Agreements Signed*NC2306121493 Cairo MENA in English 1100 GMT
23 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, June 23 (MENA)—The Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC) has approved three new agreements with the International Oil Company (IOC) for oil search and prospecting in the Gulf of Suez and the western desert involving a total expenditure of \$36 million.

The company, under the agreement, will have a concession area of 180 square kilometres at Abu Zanimah in the Gulf of Suez where four wells will be dug. The company is committed to spending \$14 million over seven years.

The agreement involves a signing bonus of four million dollars.

By virtue of the second agreement, the IOC will be prospecting for oil by drilling two wells in an area of 100 square kilometers at al-Farafirah in the western desert with obligation to spend, over eight years, \$10 million.

The agreement involves a signing bonus of \$500,000 dollars. The company will drill five wells at a 20 sq km area south west of Abu al-Gharadiq in the western desert over eight years, under the third agreement approved by the EGPC.

Expenditure obligated totals \$12 million while the signing bonus will be \$1 million.

The EGPC received a fresh bid by American Mobil company to undertake oil search and prospecting operations in Egypt after a stop of 10 years, Vice President of the Corporation Dr. Wafiq Mushsharraf said. The company, EGPC official added, will be using new technology in oil search in a concession area of 375 square kilometres over seven years.

Cabinet Affairs Minister Leaves for London*NC2306132493 Cairo MENA in English 0915 GMT
23 Jun 93*

[Text] Cairo, June 23 (MENA)—Minister of Cabinet Affairs and of State for Administrative Development Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd left for London today on a two-day visit to Britain.

He told reporters at the airport that he will attend a conference held by Egyptian and foreign businessmen in London on the situation in Egypt.

Dr. 'Ubayd will address the closing session of the conference to expound to the participants the truth about the latest events in the country.

The minister said that his address will call for supporting Egypt, whose atmosphere offers one of the best chances for investment in the world.

'Ubayd will proceed from London to New York to take part in Egypt's negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) over the second stage of the Egyptian economic reform program.

Economic Delegation Leaves for Talks With Paris Club

NC2306145693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT
23 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jun (MENA)—Central Bank Governor Dr. Salah Hamid and State Minister Dr. Yusuf Butrus-Ghali left Cairo for Paris today for periodical consultations with the Paris Club within talks on the economic reform program.

Dr. Hamid said before leaving that the delegation carries the required statistics and information for the signing of an agreement under which a further 15 percent of Egypt's debts are dropped.

He said it is necessary not to elaborate on the results of such a step before it is actually made.

Morocco

King Hassan 'Happy To Collaborate' With Winners

LD2206135593 Rabat MAP in English 1227 GMT
22 Jun 93

[Text] Rabat, June 22 (MAP)—King Hassan II Monday called on Moroccan citizens to massively cast their vote in the parliamentary elections of this June 25. In a speech aired live on the Moroccan TV and radio the sovereign said all preparations were made so that the ballot takes place in total transparency and honesty and so that next Friday be a happy day.

'As far as I am concerned, I already consider this day as a feast day because we have opted for freedom, transparency and daily and direct dialog, despite the international juncture and climatic hazards', King Hassan II said.

'I am proud and so you are because, together we have made the appropriate choice. The moments were actually difficult but we were able to face the challenges and win', the sovereign stated.

The king also called officials of the Moroccan administration and political parties to show integrity and rectitude and be aware of the sacred nature of this electoral operation. King Hassan II said that as the father of all he would bless the result of the ballot.

Here follows the full text of the royal speech:

Praise be to God,

May blessings and peace be upon the prophet, his family and kin.

Dear people,

The prophet peace be upon him liked good omens and recommended them. I had planned to talk to you today and I did not know it would coincide with the eve of the

new Hegira year. This coincidence is a good omen and prompts optimism. I seize this opportunity, dear people, to extend my best wishes to each one of you, to each family and pray God the almighty that the new year be happy and beneficial, that it be marked by numerous achievements and that it enable us progress towards well-being.

Custom has it, dear people, that I talk to you prior to each elections. You will go, God willing, to the polls next Friday to elect your representatives, those whose programs you wish will be materialized to meet your own hopes.

During the past period, and more precisely since last July, we have [words indistinct] set forth all the necessary arrangements to secure, as it is your and my wish, that the ballot be honest and transparent. I can say in all objectivity that all the laws, procedures and instructions were adopted to help us reach this goal: namely sound, transparent and fair elections.

The only thing we have to do now, dear people, is to leave it to the conscience of everyone, be he from the administration or elsewhere. It is up to each one to consider next Friday as a feast day. A day that I was looking forward to and that I will be proud of. May Friday be a day of genuine feast for each citizen.

Next Friday, you will chose, dear people, those who will be legislating for a six-year term. If we count the bills that will both [word indistinct] laws and be adopted by the House of Representatives, [words indistinct] the legislature will be over by year 2000. We will therefore be legislating for six years and the laws that will [words indistinct]

I personally consider next Friday as a feast day and this for several reasons. In view of the problems and events unfolding around us, we should be proud of our choice of freedom, democracy and daily direct and transparent dialogue. Despite the economic and social difficulties facing up the world and despite our own hardships and the two years of drought, we have, you and I, decided to take up the challenges and add to our daily concerns, the responsibility of choice in circumstances where it is not easy to make a choice. Just like you, I am proud that we have engaged in the pursuit of a lofty goal in so short a span of time and so delicate a period. But, dear people, it is not the first time that we challenge history and that we come out with a victory based on solid foundations and whose results will be reaped for several years to come.

It is up to you to massively take part in Friday's voting so that you will not be among those of whom the almighty said: 'They are happy to remain aloof of the jihad' (Koran), referring to those who do not take part in the jihad. It is indeed a great jihad (sacred war). When our country gained independence, my father, the late King Mohammed V, said 'today we have completed the smallest jihad to start the great [words indistinct] the great jihad does not admit deserters. I would not like,

dear people, that you [word indistinct] among them. Go to the polls with God's blessing and be sure that you are a [word indistinct] people and that with the help of God, you will make the good choice and that the Almighty will inspire you. That is why I am addressing now all officials of the Kingdom of Morocco, namely executives of the administration and leaders of political parties. Why? Because the [word indistinct] administration governors, sheikhs, moukaedem, [word indistinct], super-caids, khalifa, have a responsibility. We also wanted that political parties be entrusted with a huge responsibility in the elections operation by the prerogatives we vested them with at the polling stations.

Each one of us should show honesty and rectitude in this sacred process. I have dear people followed these last days the debates on TV and noted that a word was unfortunately used by almost all participants from all trends. The word is 'game' literally translated from French. We are definitely not involved in a 'game'. I do not think that leaders of political parties and citizens feel that they are a party to a game. It is more likely a tongue slip and I can only understand it as such.

We are on the eve of a sacred operation, namely that of entrusting to some of us the task of leading us on the path of success, achievement of our goals for the well-being of our children and grand children. This is the reason why I am telling you, dear people, that for me Friday will be a feast day and you should also feel the same about it. You should know, dear people, we have always been, you and me, on the same wave length and following the same path. You are all my sons and my daughters and I make no difference between you. Whatever the outcome of the polls is, I will be, as the king of this country, happy to collaborate with those who will have won. A humble creature of God, I will be honored of this collaboration.

Therefore, go to the polls. I will then [word indistinct] with you and at your side in spirit.

I have a last recommendation to make: I am insistently asking each of you to recite this verse of the Koran when casting his or her ballot: 'Lord, bestow on us your mercy and give us rectitude in our behavior' (Koran).

Sudan

Egyptian Mission Starts Closing Consulates

NC2406114393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT
24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 24 Jun (MENA)—The Egyptian diplomatic mission in Sudan has begun to take the necessary measures to implement the Sudanese Government's decision to close the Egyptian Consulates in Port Sudan and al-Abyad.

The Sudanese authorities have allocated one week from 21 June to close the consulates and terminate their functions. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario Condemns Plan for Legislative Elections

LD2306231193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic
2200 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Legislative elections by general ballot are due to be held in Morocco on 25 June. The first in nine years, these elections are not being met with enthusiasm by Moroccan citizens, and they are facing a Saharan opposition. Here are details from Bariza Berrazak.

[Berrazak] The permanent mission of the Polisario in Paris issued a statement today in which it condemned the intention of the authorities in Rabat to hold Morocco's legislative elections inside the Western Sahara. The statement says that the Moroccan intention will weaken the chances for peace and strengthen the Saharan people's doubts about the credibility of the United Nations.

In addition to the Saharans' doubts, Moroccans also have doubts. They believe that those who will be elected will not serve the interests of the people. The Moroccans' enthusiasm for the election has declined due to the squabbles among some militants of the parties and due to the concerns of citizens over the effects of the drought that has hit Morocco for two consecutive years.

As for the Independence Party, it has not stopped condemning what it terms the right-wing parties' maneuvers supported by officials in authority. The deciding factor between all the parties is the 11.5 million Moroccan electors' votes to be cast by ballot on the day after tomorrow in the first legislative elections in nine years.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Meets Christopher in Washington

JN2206191493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1755 GMT
23 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Washington, 23 Jun (WAKH)—Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, who is now visiting the United States, met with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher this evening. [passage omitted]

They reviewed the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries. Christopher stressed that President Clinton's administration is determined to further bolster friendly relations with the State of Bahrain in all areas. The meeting was attended by Bahraini Ambassador in Washington Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman Bin-Faris and Bahrain's permanent representative at the United Nations, Dr. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ghaffar.

Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah also held a meeting at the U.S. Capitol this afternoon with Lee Hamilton, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. They exchanged views on political issues of common interest to both countries. It is noteworthy that Hamilton chairs the committee which draws up U.S. foreign policy.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Ending Indirect Boycott of Israel

PM2306151993 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
20-26 Jun 93 pp 16, 17

[Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri report: "Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Tells AL-MAJALLAH: We Do Not Recognize Israel. Ending Boycott Linked to Our National Interests"]

[Text] Kuwait—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has confirmed that Kuwait still observes the direct boycott—that is, the boycott of direct trade with Israel—but has decided to end the indirect boycott.

In a statement to AL-MAJALLAH he said that Kuwait did not recognize Tel Aviv, that this step is linked to the national interests, that the decisions of the Office for the Boycott of Israel attached to the Arab League allow such a step if taken for considerations related to national interests, and that Kuwait would from now on deal with companies that deal with Israel. He added that some Arab states had dealings with many U.S. companies which Kuwait had boycotted and with which Kuwait would now deal.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti National Assembly Member Talal al-Sa'id has told AL-MAJALLAH that the United States

had put pressure on Kuwait to end the boycott of Israel and that discussions had been going on for some time about ending the direct boycott of Israel and the ban on direct dealing with Israel.

Ahmad al-Sawdan, director of the Office for the Boycott of Israel, has stated that most major U.S. companies are now outside the boycott restrictions because recent Arab boycott decisions lifted the ban on them.

Kuwait's Israel Boycott Office has begun taking calls from members of the public, mostly businessmen, expressing interest in seizing the opportunity to act as agents for the companies which were previously boycotted.

Austria Reaffirms Support for UNSC Resolutions on Iraq

LD2106180793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1535 GMT
21 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Vienna, 21 June (KUNA)—Austria has reaffirmed today that the regime in Iraq must carry out all the UNSC [UN Security Council] resolutions concerning the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait, particularly the resolutions concerning the final demarcation of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, and the immediate and unconditional release of Kuwaiti POW's and hostages detained in Iraq.

This confirmation of the Austrian stand has come during a meeting between the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation that is in Vienna for the international human rights conference and Dr. Wolfgang Schallenberg, secretary general of the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

The Kuwaiti delegation has been holding meetings alongside the conference with various delegations and officials from Austria and other states taking part in the conference, in order to explain Kuwait's just issues especially the issue of the POW's and hostages still detained in Iraq. [passage omitted]

The Austrian official stressed that his country views with concern "the threats that are still uttered by Iraq against Kuwait" stressing that all the UNSC resolutions must be carried out in order to establish security and stability in the region. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation affirmed that "normalizing relations with the anti-Kuwait states that supported and backed the Iraqi invasion was not solely a Kuwaiti Government issue, but in the first place, it is a question that concerns the Kuwaiti people who remain in control of the situation in this connection as a result of the great and harsh treatment they suffered from those states." [passage omitted]

Interpol To Arrest 'Manipulators of Public Funds'*LD2206215093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1817 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 Jun (KUNA)—Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Rawdan announced in the National Assembly today that Interpol has been contacted with a view to arresting the principal manipulators of public funds. After a debate on the Auditing Office's report on investments, the Assembly postponed its debate on the issue of Kuwaiti investments abroad until next Saturday.

During the session, Deputy 'Abd al-Aziz al-Adasani revealed the size of the losses to future generations in terms of reserves, which are estimated at about 52 percent of the reserves from 30 June 1990 until the end of January 1993. Al-Adasani said "The speculators in public funds have completed Saddam Husayn's mission of plundering state capabilities."

Finance and Planning Minister Nasir al-Rawdan announced that in coordination with the Interior Ministry contact has been made with Interpol for the arrest of the principal manipulators of public funds. He stressed to the Assembly that he will not hesitate to resign if that helps to resolve the problem. He said "I will not be branded as a thief or have it said that I have covered up for anyone." [passage omitted]

Ali Rashid al-Badr, the member delegated to the public investments body, reviewed some of the measures taken by the new management of the Kuwaiti Investment Office in London, which was set up in 1992, regarding monitoring and dealing with failings in the management of foreign investments. [passage omitted]

Oman**Agreement on British Challenger-2 Battle Tanks Signed***JN2206155093 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Text] On behalf of the Omani Government, Defense Ministry Secretary General Sayf Bin-Hamad al-Battash signed an agreement this morning for British-made Challenger-2 battle tanks. The agreement was signed for the (Frets) manufacturing company by its general manager.

The agreement is a first step toward modernizing the sultan's armed forces. It comes as part of current plans to increase the combat capability of various weapons and to train Omani cadres to meet the requirements of weapons and equipment modernization in light of the terrain of Oman.

Saudi Arabia**Industry Minister on Growth of Petrochemical Industry***LD2106205893 Riyadh SPA in English 1922 GMT 21 Jun 93*

[Text] Riyadh, June 21, (SPA)—The petrochemical sector is projected to grow at eight percent annually within the framework of the kingdom's fifth five year plan (1990-95), while the rate of growth for the industrial and oil sectors has been assessed at 7.5 percent and 5.4 percent respectively. The growth of the economy is forecast at 6.5 percent annually.

This was stated by Industry and Electricity Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Zamil during a dialogue with Saudi businessmen at the Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry last night.

The dialogue, organized by the Saudi Economic Society, was attended by prominent Saudi businessmen as well as corporate executives like Ibrahim bin-Salamah, vice chairman of the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), reports Arab News.

The society's president, Dr. Nasir Ibrahim al-Qoud, had earlier arranged a symposium on the investment climate in the kingdom which brought together leading businessmen and government officials from Saudi Arabia and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] headquarters.

The minister also announced that Riyadh will have a third industrial estate in due course. At present, one third of the kingdom's 2036 factories are located in the capital, of which nearly 60 operating industries have an investment of SR [Saudi rials] 12 billion. The Riyadh Chamber of Commerce and Industry expects a substantial increase in the industrial output from SR 35 billion to SR 41.4 billion by 1995.

Speaking on the subject of industrial development and investment climate in the kingdom, the minister said abundant natural resources coupled with excellent infrastructural facilities have created an upsurge in industrial growth.

Citing statistics, he explained how the production of iron and steel, which stood at around 425,000 tonnes in 1983 has shot up to 2.2 million tonnes last year, posting a five-fold increase during the period.

Similarly, he said the production of cement at 7.5 million tonnes in 1984 more than doubled to 15.3 million tonnes last year reflecting a steady growth of the construction sector.

Describing the investment climate in the kingdom as positive, Zamil said his ministry issued from 1989 to 1993 some 1075 industrial licences for both Saudi and joint venture concerns involving an outlay of SR 38 billion and a work force of 59,000 people.

He said another indication of the momentum of growth is an ongoing expansion program undertaken by many of the existing plants. SABIC alone will raise its industrial output to 20 million tonnes in 1995 with some new additions to its downstream petrochemical products.

The minister observed that some 479 factories have embarked on an ambitious program involving a total

investment of SR 29.4 billion. currently, the kingdom has a total of 2036 factories with around SR 85 billion invested in these plants.

Zamil also spoke on the continued emphasis on the Saudization program in the industrial sector and said the efforts have paid off.

He said while there is a high percentage of Saudi manpower in the petrochemical and oil sectors, the number of Saudis in the small-scale sector needs to be increased.

Mubarak Reportedly Warns of Possible U.S. Attack*JN2406082893 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
24 Jun 93 p 1*

["Exclusive"]

[Excerpt] Washington—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned from its own sources in Geneva, Amman, and Cairo that a senior Arab official received a telephone call from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the evening of Saturday [19 June], in which Mubarak asked the senior Arab official to relay an urgent warning to Iraqi officials that there will be an air strike against the two Iraqi corporations "al-Yawm al-'Azim" [Great Day] and al-Rafah [Prosperity]. It is worth noting that the UN inspection team which has been in Baghdad for the past three weeks requested to install surveillance cameras at these two corporations to monitor their activities, but the Iraqis have rejected this request.

In his warning, Mubarak affirmed that he has confirmed reports that the U.S. air strike will most probably be carried out in late June or early July unless Iraq reaches an agreement with the United Nations in this regard. Mubarak stressed to the Arab official the need to act promptly to inform Iraqi officials of this.

Informed Arab sources said that the Arab official who received the telephone call from President Mubarak flew to Geneva quickly to inform an Iraqi official of this warning.

On Saturday, the UN Security Council addressed a warning to Iraq, saying that its violation of its commitments will result in "dire consequences" for Iraq. [passage omitted]

U.S. Newspaper Cited on 'Instability' in Kuwait*JN2306195693 Baghdad Voice of Youth in Arabic 1900
GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] The U.S. newspaper THE WASHINGTON TIMES has stressed that instability, fear of the future, greed, and lack of confidence in the future, have become a common feeling prevailing now in the area of Kuwait. The newspaper correspondent noted that one of the causes of this feeling is the complete economic paralysis resulting from the increasing debts borrowed by the regime imposed on Kuwait. These debts are now estimated at \$200 billion, the correspondent said.

Al-Tikriti Letter Urges Opposition Groups To Return*JN2406120193 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic
24 Jun 93 pp 1, 18*

["Exclusive"]

[Text] London, Vienna—The letter sent by Barzan al-Tikriti, political adviser to the Iraqi president, to Iyad

'Alawi, leader of an Iraqi opposition group, has drawn various and extensive reactions from Iraqi opposition groups outside Iraq.

These reactions ranged from support for the ideas enshrined in the letter to skepticism over the usefulness of such a letter.

The Iraqi opposition's London-based newspaper BAGHDAD had published al-Tikriti's letter, in which he urged opposition groups outside Iraq to return home so that they may hold a dialogue with the Iraqi leadership and exercise their partisan and political activities publicly.

The letter asked the 'Alawi group and other groups to sever their ties with foreign quarters so that they may carry out their political tasks and activities inside Iraq, and so that they may address Iraqis with regard to remedying the problems and crises plaguing Iraq since the Gulf crisis.

Al-Tikriti, who was appointed as political adviser to the Iraqi president with the status of minister in February, pledged that the opposition groups which return to Iraq will be allowed to engage in their partisan and political work, away from government harassment and pursuit.

News reports from London indicate that the publication of al-Tikriti's letter in the opposition paper BAGHDAD confirms the existence of prior contacts between the Iraqi president's political adviser and the Iraqi opposition groups operating outside Iraq, even though Iyad 'Alawi denied this. The information currently available indicates that al-Tikriti has managed to hold contacts with several Iraqi opposition figures, such as 'Alawi, Dr. Tahsin Mu'allah, Dr. Ghassan al-'Atiyah, and other independent figures.

Al-Tikriti's letter is the first gesture made by a senior Iraqi official toward the opposition, urging opposition figures outside Iraq to return home.

In a separate development, sources close to the Vienna-based Iraqi National Congress [INC], a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups, said that Ahmad al-Jalabi, a key INC figure, will quit his position as chairman of the INC Executive Council shortly. These sources added that al-Jalabi's decision to resign is meant to realize the wishes of some Arab and regional quarters which are concerned with the Iraq question. These quarters have doubts about al-Jalabi's political and sectarian views, not to mention that they also have reservations regarding his previous activities and connections.

An INC delegation visited Saudi Arabia in early June and held several meetings with Saudi officials on the latest political developments in Iraq and the region.

Reports from Vienna noted that several Arab quarters informed the INC leadership of their opposition to the configuration of the INC Executive Council, because it is not politically, socially, and ethnically balanced; thus rendering such a configuration unrepresentative of all

sects. These quarters advised INC leaders to contact Iraqi political figures outside the INC to convince them to join the INC Executive Council. It is worth noting that Ahmad al-Jalabi, his deputy Hani al-Fakiki, as well as 15 members of the Executive Council are Shiites. The remaining 10 members of the Council are Kurds, Sunnis, and minority representatives. Former Iraqi ambassador 'Abd-al-Sattar al-Duri, a Sunni, had withdrawn from the Executive Council to protest this configuration of the Council, which he described as sectarian.

It is to be recalled that the INC is the only Iraqi political opposition group recognized by the United States. INC leaders have visited Washington and met with U.S. officials there.

PUK's Talabani Returns Home, Comments on Support

NC2306194593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, returned to the homeland at 1330 today following visits to several Arab and European countries and the United States. [passage omitted]

In a televised interview, the brother secretary general said the visits were extremely fruitful, yielding further support and protection for the Kurdish people. Brother Talabani affirmed that the United States wants to overthrow Saddam and replace him with a multiparty system represented in the Unified Iraqi National Congress as a democratic alternative to the Baghdad regime.

In his statement, brother Talabani said: We also briefed the brothers in Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Kuwait on the issue of federation.

Regime Agent Arrested, Explosive Charge Defused

NC2306204293 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] A detachment belonging to the Irbil Security Directorate defused an explosive charge containing 1 kg of TNT on 20 June. The detachment arrested a regime agent who was planning to detonate the charge in a residential area in Irbil.

National Assembly Urges Support To Lift Embargo

JN2306125893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The National Assembly has urged world parliaments to appeal to the Security Council to reconsider the

unfair measures imposed on Iraq, and to pass a new resolution lifting the inequitable embargo imposed on the people of Iraq.

In letters sent to these parliaments, National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih held the countries which are contributing to the maintenance of this embargo responsible for the harm being caused to the Iraqi people and future generations. He added that the continuation of this unjustifiable embargo contravenes the essence of human rights and violates international norms.

RCC Issues Law on Supporting, Rewarding Scientists

JN2306145793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Text] The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued Law No. 3 of 4 January 1993 providing for the issuance of Law No. 1 for 1993, the Law on Supporting Scientists. The law aims at supporting scientists who prove their high proficiency and make distinguished research contributions to the building of great Iraq or to enhance and lift the status of the Arab nation. The law aims at granting scientists material and moral privileges in order to enhance their ability to serve their homeland and nation and to elevate them to a distinguished status among other peoples and nations.

Under the law, scientists will be classified in grades A and B. Those who will be nominated for these grades are those who make distinguished contributions in the service of the homeland, the people and the nation through their specializations, scientific achievements and inventions that contribute to the progress, development and prosperity of society; that elevate Iraq's status and maintain its security and sovereignty; and that bolster and enhance the Arab nation's status and prestige with distinguished, scientific contributions.

Nominated scientists must be known for their absolute loyalty to the homeland and the nation and for their good conduct. They must have a sober character and be known for honesty, sincerity, and other respectful traits.

The law introduces a medal called the Science Medal to be granted to scientists classified in Grade A. The law also introduces a golden badge called the Science Badge. There will be two classes of this badge: First and Second Classes. The First Class badge will be yellow and will be carried by scientists classified as Grade A. The Second Class badge will be white and will be carried by the scientists classified as Grade B.

The law provides that the scientists covered by the regulations of this law will be granted material and moral privileges to be decided by the president of the Republic. There will be an annual performance review of those covered by this law to verify their continued fulfillment of the conditions and their continued ability to give in order to determine whether to maintain their grade, promote them, demote them, or cancel their privileges under this law.

Rabin Says Jerusalem Not Matter for Negotiation
TA2306191793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900
GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister says that Jerusalem, the heart of the Jewish people, will remain united under Israeli sovereignty. Our correspondent Rina Matzliah reports that in an address before the international conference of the United Israel Appeal, Mr. Rabin said no one should delude himself that the Israeli Government will conduct negotiations on Jerusalem.

He added that the example of handing back the territories, which occurred with Egypt, will not be repeated.

The United Israel Appeal conference is attended by 270 participants from 22 countries.

Peres Says Accord With Palestinians Possible
TA2406085293 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 93 p 7

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] "I propose setting up an Israeli-Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. I believe it is possible to reach an agreement with the Palestinian people. They have begun to understand that the fate of peace will not be decided only by the Arab states and that their fate depends on their dialogue with us," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the closing session of the Zionist General Council in Qiryat Shemona yesterday.

Referring to the Golan Heights, Peres said that "the Golan settlers represent us all. They are emissaries with a dual mission: security and peace. I am sure that they do not want one of these two missions to vanish." Peres said that prior to the last general elections, Rabin declared that his government would be ready to compromise on the Golan Heights. Peres believes that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad understands that yesterday's world has vanished but has not yet gotten used to the new world. "Sometimes, when I follow the negotiations, I get the impression that the Syrian president prefers negotiating to reaching an accord. It is pleasant to conduct negotiations. What is the hurry? The whole world courts him, and there is no need for tough decisions."

Peres suggested to the Arabs to continue the political process instead of military confrontation "because the world has changed." He said there is no longer an East-West division and UN voting has changed because of the emergence of a new world following the downfall of the USSR, which had supported the Arab world. Peres said there are no special snags in the multilateral negotiations and he believes it will be possible to reach an accord with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates Reportedly Eases Boycott
TA2406050993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400
GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The United Arab Emirates have reportedly decided to drop some elements of the Arab boycott against Israel. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the decision was conveyed by the Emirates to the United States, and Washington informed Israel. According to sources in Jerusalem, the Emirates promise not to add new companies to the black list for trading with Israel, and foreign citizens will be allowed to enter the Emirates even if their passports show they have visited Israel. Up until now, a visitor with an Israeli rubber stamp on his passport would have been refused entry to the Gulf principalities.

Air Force Chief on Regional Missile Threat, Arrow

TA2306172493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1520
GMT 23 Jun 93

["Special" interview with Major General Herzl Budinger, Air Force commander, by Moshe Shlonsky, on the occasion of Air Force Day; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shlonsky] In the wake of the Gulf war, many Arab countries stopped developing their air forces and chose to purchase ground-to-ground missiles instead, on the assumption that Israel's Air Force is in charge of its air space. Does the fact that the Arab countries are giving up the skies, so to speak, as a result of which the threat of enemy aircraft has vanished, mean that the Air Force's crucial role in defending Israel's skies is diminishing?

[Budinger] You have raised a very valid point. I do not think they have entirely given up the use of aircraft in operational situations. To wit, all the Arab air forces that can afford to buy airplanes, are still doing it, with the exception of Iraq, whose situation does not permit it. All the other countries are procuring aircraft, attempting to achieve parity with Israel to the extent possible.

The merit of having the option of ground-to-ground missiles for the Arab countries lies in the fact that, for the first time since the State of Israel's establishment, they have been able to penetrate Israel's aerial space and to strike at populated and industrial centers. That happened during the Gulf war, which was the first time it was carried out so extensively. The achievements of those attacks, and the fact that the operators of these system do not require special expertise, since all they need is to lay and press a button, which takes a short time to learn....[pauses] The accuracy of these missiles is very low, since they can only be launched on cities and industrial centers, rather than definite targets; they are not sufficiently accurate as yet, although I believe they will be more accurate in the future....

[Shlonsky, interrupting] Yet they dent people's morale.

[Budinger] They cause damage, and we cannot accept that. Just as the Israel Defense Forces' [IDF] foremost task is to defend the Israeli population, and only after that is it an offensive army, the Air Force's primary task is to protect the country's skies. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] Do you believe the Arrow project will be completed?

[Budinger] I expect that all the development tests will be carried out, and if they fail—it is a complex project—there will probably be no more project at all. If they are successful, there will be a need to decide whether the development is to go on with the Americans, which is preferable in view of the project's size and the number of items to be purchased. If the Americans decide to stop their support, the State of Israel will have to decide whether it can and wants to continue alone, taking into consideration the threats that exist at that time. [passage omitted]

[Shlonsky] I assume the concept involving combat helicopters was reinforced by the lessons learned from the Gulf war. Will it be reflected in the structure of the future Air Force? Will the Americans continue supplying us with Apache gunships? How valid is the Air Force concept that gunships will be the front line in the event of enemy penetration, and that reserve troops and tanks will come second?

[Budinger] We think highly of the combat helicopters' potential. In fact, we started procuring them gradually after the Yom Kippur War. Beginning with only six old-model Cobras, we proceeded to build up our capability and developed a combat doctrine involving the use of gunships, which is slightly different from that of other countries. Today we have more than 100 such helicopters. We have attained very good results in exploiting the gunships' potential. At present we use them even in routine security tasks, mainly on the Lebanese border.

We believe that in a holding-defense battle, combat helicopters will do a wonderful job if required to hold the fort until the IDF reserves troops are called up. I have a lot of faith in that. [passage omitted]

PRC Opens Defense Attache Office in Tel Aviv

TA2406110693 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Jun 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The PRC has sent a defense attache to its embassy in Tel Aviv. The officer, Lieutenant Colonel Su Ligan arrived in Israel this week, reliable sources told HA'ARETZ. The attache's arrival officially inaugurated defense relations between the two states.

Israel is also due to open a defense attache's office [DAO] in Beijing. A Navy lieutenant colonel has been appointed to the post. This week's reception in Tel Aviv on the occasion of the opening of the Chinese DAO was attended by the Chinese ambassador; Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff; senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officers; and many guests.

Su Ligan, an officer in the Chinese ground forces, will deal with air, sea, and ground issues. China also has DAO's in the Arab states and in Iran.

The IDF will soon dispatch defense attaches to many countries, including Russia and Mexico. Among the designated officers is Brigadier General 'Imanu'el Hart, who will be based in Mexico.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew on 24 June in a page 1 report by Navit Zomer adds: "Zhu Gaofeng, PRC vice minister of communications, is visiting Israel for the first time as the guest of the Ministry of Communications and the Eisenberg Group. Zhu is accompanied by senior officials from his ministry. To date, the PRC has purchased Israeli communications equipment from ECI Telecom, which is represented in China by the Eisenberg Group."]

Nepalese Prime Minister Arrives for 4-Day Visit

TA2206180093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Israeli and Nepalese officials are examining the feasibility of setting up a number of joint cooperation projects. Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala began a four-day official visit to Israel today. During talks this evening with Prime Minister Rabin, the Nepalese visitor asked for Israeli assistance in police training, developing hospitals, and water and agriculture projects. Prime Minister Koirala was welcomed at an official ceremony at the Rose Garden opposite the Knesset in Jerusalem this afternoon by Prime Minister Rabin and other dignitaries. Mark Weiss has the story:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Weiss] Prime Minister Koirala told his hosts that he was deeply moved by the warm welcome he received. He thanked Israel for technological and agricultural assistance provided to his country. Koirala noted that it was his late brother, when he was prime minister 33 years ago, that initiated ties with Israel. [passage omitted]

During his visit, the prime minister will meet with President Weizman, the prime minister and foreign minister, as well as the head of the opposition.

In his welcoming speech, Prime Minister Rabin noted that thousands of young Israeli backpackers travel to Nepal each year. He also thanked Nepal for their contribution to UNIFIL, the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon, which has more than 700 Nepalese troops. [end recording]

Media Analyzes Repercussions of King's U.S. Visit

Effects of 'Rapprochement' Viewed

JN2406063393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
24-25 Jun 93 pp 1, 5

["News analysis" by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn's current visit to Washington, which has included not only first meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials but also crucial encounters with leaders of a hitherto critical American Congress and press, has been viewed here as a major boost to Jordan's efforts to reassert itself as a key player in Middle East politics. But sceptics maintain that there may be a price to pay, on the internal front at least, for renewed support from Washington, which is being felt by the extended stay of the King in the American capital (11 days) and the wide range of meetings that has been planned for him.

After King Husayn's meeting with President Clinton on June 18, a White House statement said the two leaders discussed Jordan's progress towards democratisation and respect for human rights and the U.S. President expressed support for the King's "courageous" efforts in this regard. The statement quoted Mr. Clinton as saying that "this work will encourage long-term stability and prosperity in Jordan." On the other hand, the two leaders discussed the "imperative nature of continuing to enforce" U.N. sanctions against Iraq, as the U.S. President himself put it, and the two countries will continue to work closely in pursuit of that goal.

In the absence of first-hand information on what actually took place during the two-hour meeting, these two statements were open to various interpretations by Jordanian politicians and analysts.

While some took the first statement to mean that the Americans have now fully accepted the King's policy of inclusion at home, basically with the Islamists who strongly oppose Arab-Israeli negotiations, others cast doubt that the administration has moved from its previous position which indirectly maintained that the Islamists were a threat to democracy.

Jordanians are generally agreed, however, on the meaning of words concerning Iraq. The indication here is that the new U.S. Administration, under prodding from hardline policy-makers who are obsessed by the forced removal of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn from power, might pressure Jordan into contributing towards that goal.

In fact, it could be those policy-makers who might have been behind publishing U.S. press reports, earlier on the King's visit, which cited a Congressional report accusing Jordan of having supplied Iraq with material and intelligence information during the Gulf war in 1991.

King Husayn has repeatedly distanced himself from President Saddam Husayn and Jordan continued to observe the sanctions on Iraq in compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions. King Husayn, however, has been reluctant to drag Jordan into any effort that would upset the intricate balance with the regime in Baghdad for both domestic and regional considerations. The Kingdom still receives its full oil supplies at half price from Iraq. Furthermore, Jordan's national security could suffer from any further troubles inside Iraq itself particularly from threats to its territorial integrity and weakness in the neighbouring state.

The Jordanian sceptics feel that upon return to Amman, the King and Prime Minister 'Abd al-Salam al-Majali might have to lay the ground for a possible breakthrough with the Israelis in the peace talks, mainly by taking a stronger stand against those who are opposed to a peace settlement and other diehard supporters of the Iraqi regime. At least dissenting voices, whether in mosques or in the press, would have to be subdued as a result of the new rapprochement with Washington, the sceptics say. The king in fact, just before he left on the U.S. strip, lashed out at those in the press and elsewhere who want to have it both ways: Call for democracy at home and support repression against fellow Arabs. On continual basis before that, King Husayn had criticised, but did not take action against, those who used public fora, like the mosques, to oppose peace negotiations with the "Jews" and those who sow seeds of religious and social strife in the Jordanian society in pursuit of their policies.

King Husayn's visit to Washington coincided with the opening of the 10th round of the bilateral peace talks. Dr. al-Majali, who had been chief negotiator to the peace talks until he became prime minister in late May, took the opportunity to instruct his team not to step ahead of the Palestinian track in making progress.

A few days later, the King told reporters in Washington that it is about time that the people could see some type of tangible results.

"I am hopeful, I am optimistic, I am determined to do whatever we can to make progress towards a settlement which brings security and confidence in the future," he said. But he was sure to reiterate that Jordan will not sign a peace agreement until progress is made in negotiations with the Palestinians.

Jordanian officials, who view the King's visit to the U.S. as a major success, insist that the sceptics' contention that there may be a price to pay for the new rapprochement with Washington is mere speculation. "Take another look at what the King said in Washington on Monday," a senior official said. "His Majesty's commitment to democracy, pluralism and policy of inclusion is unwavering," the official added, stressing that "the Americans know that there is no price to exact at the expense of Jordanian democracy and other fundamental policies."

Outcome Should Influence Talks

JN2406095693 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jun 93 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Success of King Husayn's Visit Reflects on the Climate of the Negotiations"]

[Text] The warm reception and great hospitality accorded to His Majesty King Husayn by U.S. President Clinton and his administration's senior staff, especially the U.S. defense secretary, confirm the respect, appreciation, and admiration which the government and people of the United States have for His Majesty King Husayn.

King Husayn is a unique leader. Throughout 40 years, he has been able to accumulate a legacy of great respect within international, official, and popular circles. He also has managed to be convincing in terms of his efforts and attempts to defuse crises and end wars and conflicts in the region in order to reach a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace under which comprehensive development and economic, social, and civil renaissance could be realized in the entire region.

Through his farsightedness and wisdom, King Husayn is able to gain the support, respect, and appreciation of the international community and mobilize its support for achieving security and stability in the region.

Therefore, it is no surprise that His Majesty King Husayn was accorded this stately reception and great welcome by senior U.S. Administration officials, headed by President Clinton.

President Clinton and his administration's senior staff listened to responsible and serious statements by King Husayn which demonstrated his great knowledge and awareness. They also listened to his warnings against the dangers inherent in the failure of the peace process.

Therefore, the U.S. Administration announced its willingness to undertake a serious and active move to remove the deadlock in the bilateral negotiations and to intervene as a full and effective partner in the negotiations. King Husayn very successfully detailed the Arab position to the U.S. Administration. And we can say that King Husayn's visit to the United States and his meetings with President Clinton and his administration's senior staff were successful and fruitful.

We hope that the success of the Jordanian-U.S. talks, led by King Husayn and President Clinton, will be reflected on the various tracks of the peace negotiations.

We also hope that the success of these Jordanian-U.S. talks will reflect on the future of bilateral relations in a fruitful way based on mutual respect.

Paper Urges Arab Meeting To Devise Strategy on Iraq

JN2406060593 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24-25 Jun 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Clarity, All the Way"]

[Text] Once more, His Majesty King Husayn has made clear Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis and the situation in Iraq. Jordan had never had any deal or understanding with the Iraqi leadership concerning Kuwait or any other intentions in the Gulf. Jordan, like everybody else, was taken by surprise when Iraq invaded and occupied its Arab neighbour. Jordan never condoned, nor will it ever, the acquisition of land by force or the meddling in other countries' affairs, if only because Jordan has always been under threat itself. The Jordanian leadership has always opposed foreign intervention in Arab affairs and would have instead liked to see an Arab solution to the conflict. The major consequences of the Gulf conflict and war are the isolation of the Iraqi people and their country and the schism that plagues the Arabs, which so far has defied solution. If any blunders were made, they were committed by the Iraqi leadership itself, the Kuwaitis and other Arabs who are now facing different threats from within and without.

Furthermore, Jordan was worried Iraq, a powerful Arab country, would be reduced, as it is now, to a starving people and under the threat of being partitioned. The Iraqi leadership, the sought-after perpetrator of the conflict, continues to rule—albeit on only third of the country. That is why Jordan is worried that if the situation continues for much longer the Iraqi people will suffer further and Iraq might disintegrate. Both prospects are not due only to the failure of the Iraqi regime itself, but also to the Arab order as a whole. In this vein, we see the only possible salvation for Iraqis through the adoption of democracy and political and ethnic pluralism and through the strict observance of human rights, now non-existent in that country.

What the Jordanian leadership and people as a whole would like to see is the emergence of a strong, united and peaceful Iraq, where people enjoy prosperity, personal safety and dignity. How the Iraqis would accomplish this is not for Jordan to decide. Meanwhile, the Iraqi people's suffering must not continue. There is no justification for collective punishment.

What probably is needed is an Arab consensus on the situation in Iraq. The Arab leaderships, or at least those among them most closely concerned with the situation in the Gulf, should meet and devise a strategy that would ensure the gradual lifting of sanctions and the gradual introduction of political reform that would guarantee the emergence of a democratic Iraq and soon afterwards, if not simultaneously, a democratic Arab world.

Kuwaiti 'Bitterness' Not Cause for Revenge*JN1706081993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 93 p 4***[Editorial: "Killings That Need Not Be"]**

[Text] Kuwait has all the reasons in the world to be bitter about Iraq's invasion of 1990-1991. The brutality of a "brotherly" occupation and the loss of life and property that resulted from that action cannot be easily forgotten or forgiven. But any bitterness should not be used as an excuse to take revenge against individuals from any country whose only crime was to sympathize with the wrong party. The 10 Palestinian-Jordanians, whom Kuwait has recently sentenced to death for "collaborating" with the Iraqi invaders, should not be sacrificed for the Kuwaiti regime's ineptness to rationally and courageously deal with the crisis that led to occupation, and to the Gulf war afterwards. The 10 allegedly belong to the pro-Iraq Arab Liberation Front (ALF) and therefore, like any soldier, cannot be totally responsible for their actions. Furthermore, none of them was found guilty of direct killing of Kuwaiti nationals. It is therefore neither morally nor legally right to sentence them to death, let alone hang them. The ALF has already issued a warning against the enforcement of the sentence. That would mean a wave of revenge and counter-revenge, which can only worsen the cycle of violence and perpetuate enmity among brothers.

Instead, Kuwait must ask itself the crucial question: Why should young Arabs—Palestinian, Jordanian or whatever—who for long resided in Kuwait, would find fit to sympathize with an occupation force? The answer to this question requires deep soul searching that would be useful and healthy for the future of Kuwait itself and the Kuwaitis.

Upon asking the right questions, Kuwaitis will probably find that they are partly to blame for what had happened and what had led to it. But Kuwaitis can choose not to ask themselves any questions that might lead them to opt for reconciliation instead of confrontation. Remaining as they are under foreign protection they might think that they can still go on doing things the same old way and get away with it. But they, with whatever Arab blood in their views [as published], should remember that violence breeds violence and revenge leads to more blood being spilled. On the other hand, the world at large is increasingly shunning the method of state murder, capital punishment. More and more nations are choosing to abolish capital punishment even against perpetrators of the most heinous crimes, just as more people are today more inclined to believe that the taking of life for a crime is a crime in itself. Time and again "justice" was found to be flawed and time and again convicts were found not guilty. Even in countries with advanced investigation techniques and long judicial experience it was sometimes easy to prove that the system can make mistakes, which could not be remedied if the convicts were executed. For these reasons and more we think it would be wise that

the Kuwaiti crown prince should think of all these arguments before endorsing the court's ruling and inflict irreparable damage and immense sufferings on others.

Palestinian Police Trainees Arrive in Amman 20 Jun*JN2106053493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 93 p 1***[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]**

[Excerpt] Amman—A group of Palestinians arrived in Jordan Sunday to be trained as policemen to serve in the Israeli-Occupied territories during an interim five-year period of Palestinian rule there as part of the Middle East peace process.

Jordanian officials and Palestinian sources said the group of 37, which would form the nucleus of the proposed Palestinian forces would be trained at Amman's Police Academy.

Israel agreed to allow the deployment of the police force in the occupied territories during the ninth round of peace talks in Washington in April and May, reports from occupied Jerusalem said.

Jordan approved a Palestinian request that some of the force be trained in the Kingdom several weeks ago, officials said.

Acting Prime Minister Ma'n abu-Nuwar was quoted as saying by AFP that "We have always given our support to our Palestinian brothers each time they've asked for it."

A Palestinian source said Jordan would cover the cost of their stay and training.

The training of these officers, he added, "is part of preparations for setting up Palestinian institutions" in the occupied territories under the current peace negotiations.

The creation of a Palestinian police force was envisaged under the 1978 Camp David accords which brought peace between Israel and Egypt.

Palestinian newspapers say the force may number 10,000-30,000 men. Sources in Amman could not confirm the figure. [passage omitted]

Further on Police Training*JN2106071493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 Jun 93 pp 1, 24***[By Tawfiq 'Abid]**

[Text] 'Umar al-Khatib, alias Abu-Shamikh, minister plenipotentiary at the state of Palestine's Jordan embassy, said 37 members of the Palestinian police from the occupied West Bank crossed the King Husayn Bridge into Jordan yesterday.

He told AL-DUSTUR this is the first group of Palestinian police who will receive training on a variety of police duties at Jordanian camps and security centers. He did not specify the length of the training.

Al-Khatib added that other groups will come to Jordan in the near future to receive similar training. They will form the nucleus of the Palestinian police, who will be responsible for security and order in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the transitional period.

Another group, of unknown size, has left the Gaza Strip to receive police training in Egypt.

Contacted by telephone, Brigadier General Muhammad Qudsiyah, commander of the Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] in Jordan said: We are military. We do not make press statements. If you want any information, contact the political leadership in Tunis.

It is worth noting that over the past two days information has been circulating that the Badr and al-Karamah [PLA] forces in Jordan had received instructions to prepare to leave for the West Bank to participate in maintaining order and public security there, but no date has been set for their departure.

We were unable to contact Brigadier General Ahmad 'Afanah, alias Abul-Mu'tasim, PLA chief of staff, to confirm or deny these information.

Palestinian sources said the Jordanian Government will fully cover the cost of the Palestinian police training.

AL-RA'Y Wary of Japan Breaking Arab Boycott

JN1906151093 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Jun 93
pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "Japan and the Arab Boycott of Israel"]

[Text] Japan has chosen the wrong time for its effort to break the Arab boycott of Israel. Likewise, it has chosen the wrong time to prepare to present this issue to the conference of the major industrialized nations in Tokyo early next month. Japan has also received an Israeli economic envoy and formed a Japanese team tasked with energizing bilateral economic relations.

It is worth noting that all this is happening at the same time that the bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations—now in their 10th round—have managed to realize no progress worth mentioning. This is also taking place while Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories remain far removed from the guarantees stipulated for the occupied people by the Fourth Geneva Convention. Hence, the Japanese role in ending the Arab boycott seems to be a reward that Tokyo does not feel embarrassed to offer to Tel Aviv.

No one hates the fact that Japan is assuming a positive role in accelerating movement toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region and in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, based on Resolutions 242 and

338, the land-for-peace principle, and by extending economic assistance to the countries of the region to encourage them to stay on the road of peace. But, Japanese confrontation of the Arab boycott of Israel seems to be a far cry from that role. It also seems to be encouraging the aggressor to continue its disdain for international law.

We call upon Japan to pay attention and to avoid providing cover for the U.S. role, which is biased toward Israel. This will damage Japan's status among the Arabs and will also damage the peace process.

Arab Masses Party Licensed; Leadership Elected

JN2006093393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 93 p 3

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—After it has been officially licensed by the Ministry of Interior, the Jordanian Arab Masses Party [Hizb al-Jamahir al-'Arabi al-Urduni] held its second constituent conference at its permanent headquarters in the city of Irbid in order to elect a new leadership for the party. 'Abd-al-Khaliq Shatat was elected secretary general of the party.

The party elected a 25-member central council. It also elected a seven-member political bureau which includes Dr. 'Abdallah Hamadinah, Rushdi Abu-Karim, 'Izzat al-Zaza, Dhib As'ad Qabha, Ahmad Muhammad 'Awdah, Muhammad Yusuf Ghannam in addition to the secretary general.

Communist Party Protests Content of Mosque Sermons

JN1906173493 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 19 Jun 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Communist Party (JCP), Thursday, sent a letter to the Minister of Awqaf, 'Abd-al-Salam al-'Abbad, protesting the content of sermons delivered by preachers at some mosques.

The sermons, according to Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the JCP, were mainly comprised of "insults and incitements on different political parties and Christians."

These attacks, the letter warned will affect the national unity of the country, are unconstitutional and go against the principles of the National Charter of Jordan, which calls for equality among people of different creeds and guarantees freedom of thought.

"How dare they call for collecting the Jizya from Christians ...and insult our women and daughters and raise doubts about their ethics and morals," JCP officials exclaimed, stressing that these statements indicate that the preachers are trying to differentiate between the role of Muslims and Christians in the society.

As for Communists, they have been labelled as "Atheists, unbelievers and hooligans," Dr. Zayadin added.

"We are sure that these statements were made. There is no chance of denying them. Some of us heard them while sitting in our homes, through the loudspeakers, and others went to the mosques and listened to some of the preachers," he added.

The JCP, in its above-mentioned letter, confirmed its respect for religious beliefs and stressed the important role the mosques and churches could play to raise public awareness. But, it emphasised that the mosques should not be used as an instrument in the hand of one political party to gain more popularity at the expense of the defamation of others.

The letter also stated that the preachers' sermons contradict the essence of Islam which calls for forgiveness and flexibility.

"Such sermons distort the image of Islam," Dr. Zayadin said.

Brotherhood Urges Release of 'Political Detainees'

JN1706082693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
17-18 Jun 93 p 3

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood bloc at the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday urged the release of political detainees it alleges the government is holding in violation of the law.

These detainees include Jordanian citizens who recently returned home "after providing humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan," spokesman of the bloc Ibrahim Khuraysat told the Jordan Times.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the bloc also demanded that the government refrain from arresting citizens "except in accordance with the law and announce that Jordanians living abroad can return to the country, where they will be treated according to the law."

Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad declined comment on the alleged arrests.

Mr. Khuraysat accused the government of failing to fulfil earlier promises it made to the bloc that it would end these practices.

"Despite (brotherhood deputies') feeling that the government gives promises to end these practices, the real situation does not reflect these promises," said the statement.

Mr. Khuraysat claimed that tens of Jordanians living abroad have not been allowed to return home and those who returned were arbitrarily arrested by security authorities who, the bloc claimed, were still intervening in the appointment of citizens and confiscating property.

Members of the Brotherhood bloc, the largest at the House, last month met with former Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir who they said gave them assurances that "a suitable solution" would be found to the problem of Jordanians who were detained upon return from Afghanistan.

"The government did not implement these assurances and many are still detained," said Mr. Khuraysat.

Mr. Khuraysat, who acknowledged that some of the 15 detainees whose release the Brotherhood demanded in May were freed, claimed that an unspecified number of Jordanians are still behind bars. He said the Brotherhood learned of their arrest from their relatives.

Mr. Khuraysat earlier told the Jordan Times that none of the alleged detainees were among Arab nationals who were expelled by Pakistan in a crackdown on foreign militants who had fought along with the Afghan Mujahedeen to topple the Communist regime of President Najibullah in Kabul.

"Government should deal with Jordanians returning from Afghanistan as loyal citizens who...performed their duty on behalf of their people and country," the Brotherhood said in the statement.

"For that," said the statement, "they deserve proper recognition and not be thrown in jail."

The Brotherhood had earlier said it did not object to the questioning of returnees from Afghanistan but sees no reason for their detention.

"(The returnees from Afghanistan) could (be) allowed to return home and then summoned for questioning. There is no need for detaining them," Mr. Khuraysat said.

Bank Reports 11.3 Percent Economic Growth Rate in 1992

JN2206080593 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 22 Jun 93 p 4

[Excerpt] Amman—AL-RAY—The Jordanian economy achieved prominent, positive results in 1992 for the first time for many years. Early signs of these results began to develop at the beginning of the second half of 1991, when the wheel of economic growth began to turn again after a disruption in 1988 and 1989. There was noticeable impetus in economic growth at the beginning of 1992, pushing the real growth of the gross national product to a record rate estimated at 11.3 percent, compared with a moderate growth rate of 1.8 percent in 1990 and 1991.

The annual report of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ] says that the evident growth of confidence among both consumers and investors in the private sector has played an important role in boosting economic growth in 1992. According to preliminary statistics, consumer spending in the private sector rose to 19.1 percent from 6.6 percent in 1991. Meanwhile, investment spending amounted to 55.6 percent, compared with 11.1 percent the previous year. [passage omitted]

Bombs Found at Danish Embassy, Sidon Hall

NC2306160493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115
GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] AFP has cited the police as saying that two bombs planted in the Danish Embassy in Beirut were defused. It said an explosives expert defused the two bombs, which were connected to a timer and planted in a garage the embassy uses in the al-Manarah area of Beirut.

Brigadier General Samir Sha'rani told our radio the two bombs were defused on Saturday after a young girl found them in a cardboard box in the back garage of the embassy building. Our correspondent reported that the garage overlooks a street and is not part of the embassy compound.

In Sidon, an explosives expert last night defused a bomb containing 75 kg of TNT connected to five artillery shells and two Katyushas. The device was planted in a field nearly 200 meters from a hall, where an Islamic charity was due to hold a reception.

Four Arrested in Connection With 23 Jun Explosion

NC2406065793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430
GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the north has reported that the army patrols searching for those involved in the explosion of a device yesterday on the al-Balamand junction in al-Qalamun arrested four persons this morning. They are: Khalid 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn, Ziyad al-Katan, Husayn Ghanum, and Muhammad Karkar. The correspondent added that mechanized and foot army patrols are deployed all along the coastal road between al-Qalamun and al-Balamand as part of the search for more wanted men.

Israeli Gunboats Said To Open Fire on Palestinian Camp

NC2306133893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300
GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Citing security sources in Tyre, REUTER reported that Israeli gunboats opened machine gun fire at the al-Rashidiyah camp today. The agency added that Israeli helicopters flew over Tyre during the exchange of fire between the Israelis and Palestinians in the camp.

Israeli Cobras Fire at Army Boat; Deportees Camp Hit

NC2306183793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530
GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Two Israeli Cobra helicopters fired on a Lebanese Army boat, but it continued towing two fishing boats off al-Rashidiyah coast. The boats had violated the ruling on not using dynamite to fish.

Residents of al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa reported that the Israeli occupation forces in the 'Ali al-Tahir post today directed machine gun fire toward the city's central neighborhood, concentrating on al-Ruways and wounding Layla Sallum.

Border militiamen [from the South Lebanese Army] and the Israeli occupation army directed heavy machine gun fire from Zummarayya crossing toward the southern edge of the deportees camp. A fire raged until noon, consuming five square km of land belonging to the people of Mimis and 'Ayn al-Zuhur.

Prime Minister Returns From Kuwait After 24-Hour Visit

NC2306214393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530
GMT 23 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and his delegation returned to Beirut at 1600 today following a 24-hour visit to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Fund Lends 5 Million Dinars for Water Project

NC2406115793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030
GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] A loan agreement was signed today by the Lebanese Government and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development extending a loan of 5 million Kuwaiti dinars to help finance the al-Shafa project in Greater Beirut. [passage omitted]

Korean Company To Complete Power Project

NC2406141493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Elie Hubayqah, minister of water and electricity resources, and officials of the Korean Hyundai company signed an agreement at the Quraytim Palace today awarding Hyundai the tender to carry out the second phase of the electric power network rehabilitation project at a cost of \$80.077 million. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri attended the signing ceremony. [passage omitted]

Media Comments on Potential of 10th Round Talks**'No Peace' Without Territories***JN1906160493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 19 Jun 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: U.S. President Bill Clinton has said he is determined to play a greater role in the 10th round of talks, in harmony with the full and fair partner role pledged by the United States.

In fact, translating the U.S. role into decisive and effective action in order to champion the cause of a just and comprehensive peace should no longer be delayed. The 10th round is heading for the same deadlock faced by the last nine rounds. The Tel Aviv rulers said they accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as a basis for negotiations, but they are still blocking their implementation. Resolution 242 provides for the inadmissibility of acquiring territory by force and demands total Israeli withdrawal. The Tel Aviv rulers reject total withdrawal while insisting on partial withdrawal. They publicize paradoxical phased solutions. These rulers want full Arab peace and open borders, while offering partial Israeli withdrawal.

Comparing Israeli offers and desires, we find only limited withdrawal in return for full peace. Even more dangerous is the fact that the Arabs—victims of Israeli aggression since 1948—are urged to offer security guarantees, when it is the Arabs, not the Israelis, who should logically get these guarantees. The Arabs are claiming their rights while offering, in return, a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace on all fronts of the conflict.

Israel resorted to stalling in its talks with Syria, evading the requirements of the peace process. Israel tried to dictate its terms to the Lebanese and Palestinian tracks. In its talks with Lebanon, the Israeli negotiating delegation rejected the terms of reference of Resolution 425, demanding security arrangements that encroach on the sovereignty of fraternal Lebanon, without committing itself to withdrawal from the occupied southern Lebanon.

Likewise, the Israeli delegation ruled out the implementation of Resolution 242 on the West Bank. It insisted on a limited self-rule that does not apply to Jerusalem and the Israeli settlements. It was natural for the Arab delegations to express their indignation because they did their best to make the peace process a success. Israel reciprocated with intransigence, ridicule, and by tampering with the UN resolutions that are the basic terms of reference for the Washington talks.

Before and after the U.S. initiative was launched, the Arabs made it clear that peace in the Middle East depends on total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and on enabling the Palestinian people

to exercise self-determination in their homeland. The Arabs have upheld this position in all 10 rounds, and have conveyed it to the Americans and other world states.

The Arabs did not go to Washington to bargain for their territories and rights or to conclude dubious deals with the Israelis. They went to Washington to reach a just, comprehensive, and firm peace. Now, after 20 months of talks, the peace process is still at square one. The Israelis still act as if the Arab territories are bargaining chips. They act as if peace itself is just another trade deal, rather than a great issue and creative action designed to extricate the Middle East from a whirlpool of war and conflict.

It is quite dangerous for the Washington talks to move in this vicious circle, losing momentum. It is dangerous for the Arab masses in general and the Palestinian masses in particular to become convinced that the current peace talks are a waste of time. All world leaders are well aware that if the Washington talks fail there will be serious repercussions for the cause of peace in both the Middle East and the world. The current opportunity for peace may not be available again for many years, and international credibility will be very undermined.

Those who are concerned about regional and world security, peace, and stability do not believe the United States will allow the Tel Aviv rulers to undermine every effort of the last 20 months, and that it will ignore these rulers' feverish attempts to bring the Middle East situation back from the verge of collapse.

A commitment by the United States and President Clinton to active intervention in the peace talks and to playing a full and fair partner role should be translated, unreluctantly, into serious and resolute action in order to put things in their right place, literally implement Security Council resolutions, and to oblige Israel to return all the occupied territories. Regaining the occupied territories is the key to peace. There will be no peace at all if these territories are not returned.

Effective U.S. Role Stressed*JN2206140393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Jun 93*

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The 10th round of the Washington talks are due to resume today amid signs of pessimism. The Israeli side offers nothing new, and it is not authorized to tackle the subject of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. Because it is not this authorization, the Israeli delegation raises the same old subjects, foremost of which is security; avoids discussing substantial issues; and does not hesitate to threaten and stir up tension, as it is doing in its talks with the Lebanese delegation.

The Israelis know better than any other side that peace in the region is impossible without a total withdrawal of their forces from the occupied Arab territories. Many Israeli officials stated that no peace with Syria can be reached unless the Golan is returned and all the settlements in it are dismantled. Americans, as well as influential parties in the international community, know that Israel's maneuvers to avert the requirements of the peace process are useless and that the Arabs are determined to regain all their territories and rights within the framework of an overall settlement.

Since this is the case, the question is: Why is Israel maneuvering and wasting time and efforts, and how long will the United States sit back with folded arms instead of translating its commitments and the full partner role into decisive and pressing action? Israel's maneuvers reflect Tel Aviv rulers' plan to undermine the peace process and hold the Arabs responsible for the failure, amid a heavy smoke of deception and falsehood.

In no way do the Tel Aviv rulers want to appear to the world, including public opinion in the United States, as the side that rejects peace. In fact, they reject peace and they want to cover their intransigence by raising a series of security issues, although peace is real security and all security problems will find solutions after the basic principles of settlement, foremost of which is withdrawal and Palestinian people's rights, are recognized.

The United States takes a reserved stand out of its desire to defer to Israel's rulers, to refrain from putting them into the prisoner's dock, and to encourage them to take part in the peace process by extending material and military aid to them. Past experience indicates that such aid does not serve the cause of peace. On the contrary, it encourages Israel's rulers to show more intransigence and indifference; to encroach on the essence of the peace process, its reference, and its goals; and to split the Arab rank, if possible.

It is no coincidence that the Israelis are trying to dictate their conditions to the Palestinian delegations, to level implicit threats at Lebanon, and to hold Syria responsible for the current stalemate in the talks for insisting on total withdrawal. However, it is very clear that no one can split the Arab rank or ignore Syria and its key role in the region.

Syria's position is based on the higher pan-Arab interests and epitomizes the Arabs' aspirations in all their countries. Syria is also a trustee of the message, and there will be no peace or settlement in the Middle East without Syria. Syria does not want Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights alone but from all the occupied Arab territories. What Syria is seeking is not a settlement in the Golan but an overall and just settlement on all fronts—a settlement under which the Palestinian people can regain their usurped national rights, and the occupation of Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon is terminated.

The 10th round, which begins its second week, is threatened with failure, like the ninth round, because of Israel's intransigence and maneuvers. There is nothing new in the policy of the Tel Aviv rulers, who are still working to undermine the Washington talks from the inside and to split the Arab rank through lies about flexibility with this party and intransigence with that party.

As failure of the 10th round will produce grave results for the future of the peace process, the Arab delegations, which comply with pan-Arab principles and coordinate among themselves, are urging Washington to intervene effectively and adopt Security Council resolutions as the only base of the desired just and comprehensive peace. Washington promised through President Clinton to play a fair full partner role without delay, and the whole world awaits translating these promises into actions.

'Shakeup' in U.S. Team Viewed

JN2206083993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial titled "Will Washington Play a New Role", AL-BA'TH writes: On the eve of the second week of the 10th round of the Middle East peace talks in Washington, the Clinton administration reshuffled its coordinating team to the bilateral talks. This shakeup was bound to spotlight the nature of the role being played by the United States—a role both the White House and the State Department have emphasized will now truly reflect the full partner capacity in the peace talks through direct contacts with the Arab and Israeli negotiators.

Interpretation of the Clinton administration's move has been mixed, with some observers contending that the new configuration was largely the outcome of behind-the-scenes efforts by Israel to make sure it is spared any American pressure, and others attributing the reshuffle to debilitating differences within the outgoing team.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Will the Clinton administration translate its utterances and oral commitments to concrete actions? The answer to this question lies in the way the new team will conduct the next stage of the Washington talks. Those who are looking forward to a just and comprehensive peace can only wait.

TISHRIN also devotes its editorial to the peace process, stressing the vitality of Arab solidarity to its success. The paper writes: As the 10th round resumes today, Israel continues to hedge and dodge compliance with the requirements of peace. Israel, which regards itself the natural heir to colonialism in the region, is not about to take Arabs for close and equal friends. Washington, which casts itself in the role of the sole superpower, will not reckon with weaklings and supplicants begging for salvation at the White House gates. The United States will respect the strong, and those who have self-respect

will be respected and feared by others. This is the rule by which the game of international relations is played now. How big or small a nation is does not seem to matter; what really counts is how determined a nation is.

Asserting that the Arabs can emerge from the state of decline only through closing ranks and solidarity and putting pan-Arab before parochial interests, the paper adds: What is taking place in Washington now is a veritable battle pitting right against wrong and good against evil. The Arabs are fighting this battle to regain their rights and dignity and rehabilitate their name, as well as to assure their security and tranquility.

If, for whatever reasons, Arab brothers cannot lend a hand in this battle, they must, at least, see to it that they do not become a liability to their fellow Arabs and that they do not deliver to Israel a card it will employ to score an advantage in the conflict. It is not as if peace has come to the region, or Israel changed its warlike disposition, or, for that matter, parted with its expansionist designs. Thus, to extend a hand and consider normalized relations with Israel can only serve to weaken the Arab position and invite further Israeli inflexibility and insistence not to recognize Arab rights or withdraw from the occupied Arab territories.

The Arab participants in the peace process are not in a race among themselves to catch the first train headed for a settlement. We are in a battle in which all types of weapons must be deployed—a battle that will be won by those who adhere to their territory and rights and tighten

the noose around their enemy and force it into retreating and abandoning its colonial, aggressive ambitions.

AL-THAWRAH notes the frustration accompanying the 10th round as a consequence of Israel's prevarication. The 10th round of the Arab-Israeli bilateral negotiations is going into its second week, having yielded nothing but frustration. For Israel, the 10th round is little more than a theatrical in which it can flex its muscles and demonstrate its capacity for inflexibility, with the United States adopting double standards throughout the entire peace process, and approaching it with such casualness as to reassure Israel that Washington is hardly likely to pressure it into mending its negotiating ways.

Such behavior on the part of Israel draws the questions: Where is Israel headed? Is it possible to discuss the peace process while Israel routinely turns its back on the substance of the problem and the substance of a solution—occupation and withdrawal? And how can it call for the negotiations to address security, economic, and other concerns before an agreement acceptable to the Arab parties immediately affected by occupation and aggression is reached?

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Israel's conduct at the 10th round has come as no surprise for the Arabs. Israel and the United States, however, should not be surprised when the Arabs take a stand against surrender or ceding a single inch of their occupied territories. The Arab resolve to stick to this position will be severely tested in the coming rounds.

Afghanistan

Fighting Postpones Kabul Cabinet Meeting

BK2306105093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT
23 Jun 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, June 23 (AFP)—Factional fighting involving heavy artillery halted a meeting of Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's cabinet scheduled for Wednesday, casting a shadow over prospects for a lasting peace arrangement.

"There was a meeting planned for 9:30 this morning but it was prevented due to clashes at Dehmazang Square," said Engineer Sabawoon, the security chief for Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Eslami [Islamic Party] faction.

The meeting of 12 ministers was to be held at Darulaman Palace, about seven kilometres (four miles) south of Dehmazang Square, which is the frontline between forces loyal to the Defence Ministry and those of Hekmatyar's Shi'ite Muslim allies.

For approximately 90 minutes there was an exchange of light weapons fire and heavy artillery between the Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat [Islamic Unity Party] and Defence Ministry troops loyal to former defence minister and legendary rebel chief Ahmed Shah Mas'ud.

The fighting blocked the route to be travelled by the cabinet ministers, officials said.

Mas'ud stepped down as defence minister five weeks ago in a political compromise that enabled the formation of Hekmatyar's contested cabinet to take place.

Sabawoon said the prime minister arrived on time at Darulaman for the cabinet meeting, but this has now been postponed indefinitely.

Wahdat guerrillas blamed Mas'ud's men for starting the fire fight in order to sabotage this meeting. Even a visiting foreign diplomat who was to have held talks with the prime minister at Darulaman prior to the cabinet, could not make the journey to Hekmatyar's south Kabul headquarters.

A frontline Wahdat commander who gave his name as Ibrahim said one of his men had been wounded in the clash and that two others had been taken prisoner by Mas'ud's men on Tuesday.

"If they are not released as promised we will fight," said Ibrahim, who denied initiating this clash over the prisoner issue.

The fighting was stopped after the intervention of units belonging to the northern forces of Uzbek General Abdur Rashid Dostam, who act as a buffer force in the area. It was Dostam's men who prevented the free passage of ministers to Hekmatyar's first cabinet meeting at Darulaman last Monday. Afghan sources

speculate it may have been a move by Dostam to protest his exclusion from the current cabinet.

The prognosis for peace in the war-shattered Afghan capital looks grim in face of the continuing clashes during an official ceasefire, and at a time when political agreement between the nine main Mojahedin factions has resulted in some semblance of government acceptable to all contesting parties.

Kabul is without power for second consecutive day, after it was rumoured dissident Mojahedin commanders cut the lines in an attempt to extort money from the government.

Presidential spokesman Abdol Aziz Morad denied the blackmail threat, saying the problem was a technical one and "perhaps electricity would be restored sometime today."

Bangladesh

Agreements Signed for Japanese Grant Assistance

BK2306144693 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Under two separate agreements signed in Dhaka today, Bangladesh will get a grant assistance of 3.51 billion taka from Japan. Out of this, 810 million taka will be utilized for the construction of Meghna-Gomati bridge. The remaining 2.7 billion taka of the loan will be used for importing raw materials for core industries, equipment, and spare parts and fertilizers. Our correspondent reports that Mohammad Lutfullahil Majid, secretary of the economic relations department, and Japanese Ambassador Shigeo Takenaka signed the agreements.

India

Finance Minister Interviewed on Economic Performance

BK2306133793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1545 GMT 22 Jun 93

[Interview with Indian Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh by All India Radio Correspondent M. Rama Rao; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rao] Mr. Finance Minister, several economists have said 6 to 7 percent inflation can always be expected in a planned economy, but you have managed to bring it down to 6 percent level. How did you manage the feat?

[Singh] Well, when our government came into office, we were faced with double-digit inflation. In August-September 1991, inflation rate jumped to about 17 percent, annual rate. Right from the beginning, we recognized that the biggest single problem before the country was to arrest the price rise, because rise in prices hurt our people most, particularly the poorest segment of

the population. To arrest prices, we had a multipronged strategy. We controlled the fiscal deficit; we pursued a stringent monetary policy; we strengthened the public distribution system, particularly in tribal areas—in those areas where you find acute pockets of poverty. Simultaneously, we gave farmers remunerative prices, so farmers had an added incentive to produce more; and today you have a situation where the country has had a record production of food grains. You had a record production of vegetable oil, oilseeds, and therefore, this twin strategy—both the demand management and supply augmentation—has helped to control inflation.

[Rao] Our balance of payments position has improved over the last two years. But, even according to you, we need a stronger export performance to meet any contingency and the [words indistinct]. It is only now, almost one year after the devaluation of rupee, that exports are picking up, but the invisible foreign exchange inflows—say from tourism et cetera—are still poor. Do you think we will have to continue dependence on exceptional foreign financing?

[Singh] Our basic objective is to reduce our dependence on external aid and other artificial props as soon as possible. When I became finance minister, I said that the grave economic situation that the country was facing does require us to seek support from international financial institutions by way of exceptional financing. That's why, we went to the IMF, to the World Bank. We are members of these institutions. We have borrowed money from them before and I don't see anything wrong with borrowing from them again provided we make good use of this money. Whatever money we have borrowed, we have not spent it. We have added to our reserves, unlike the previous government. So, we have borrowed but we have made prudent use of borrowing. Over a period of time we are going to strengthen our exports, we are going to reduce our excessive dependence on imports; and devaluation of the rupees, the export incentives that we have given, the liberalized import policy, all are designed to strengthen the country's export effort. Unfortunately, the disappearance of the Soviet Union meant a big setback to our exports because 20 percent of our exports used to go to the Soviet Union; and if you lose that big market, even if you make up elsewhere, the total picture does not look encouraging. But, now the exports to the rupee payment areas have been reduced to no more than 5 percent. Our exports to convertible currency areas last year went up by 11 percent. This year, I expect they will go up by 15 percent at least. In dollar terms, the April figures show an increase of over 28 percent in total exports. I believe, India will see a better export performance in the current year and years to come because of exchange rate changes that we have made, because of other export promotion measures that we have adopted, because of sound fiscal and monetary policy and measures that we have taken. As regards invisibles, in the short run, invisibles cannot increase but large amount of invisible earning, like remittances, were hitherto going into hawala [illegal financial transactions] market. As a

result of the exchange rate changes that we have made, our workers have every incentive to send their money through the authorized banking channels and not through the hawala markets; and that's why despite relatively unsatisfactory export performance, the balance of payments has remained stronger, the current account deficit in 1992-93 has turned out to be much lower than we had anticipated.

[Rao] We are told the government is going to negotiate with IMF a medium-term arrangement. Is this a measure of abundant caution or is it because foreign investment inflows are not to the extent expected?

[Singh] Well, we never expected that foreign exchange flows will become a flood in the short term. We are beginning to attract foreign investments. We have committed a foreign investment figure of about \$3 billion. But it takes time before commitments can be converted into disbursements. Our expectation is that in the next two or three years, foreign investment disbursement-wise would rise—about \$400 million last year to about \$700-800 million. This by itself is not sufficient to take care of our balance of payments in the next two or three years. Therefore, we need some support from the international financial institutions by way of abundant caution, [and] prudence, because the world we live in is a world full of uncertainties. Something can go wrong, we can have a bad harvest, we can get an unexpected rise in imports particularly of oil prices, and, therefore, it is prudent to have a safety net so that our balance of payments position will not be disrupted because of these excessive uncertainties.

[Rao] The Aid India Consortium is going to meet from the 1st of next month. What are the prospects of foreign aid now, after the latest political storm in the tea cup in India? Do you think that aid and investment flows will be unaffected?

[Singh] I am confident that these recent political developments in India will have absolutely no effect on the aid climate for India. We expect a successful outcome of the Aid India Consortium. Only last week, when the IMF released the last installment of the standby credit that we had got two years ago they paid glowing tributes to India's economic management in the last two years. So, I don't expect any adverse fallout of these recent political developments.

[Rao] Rangarajan Committee has called for phasing out of external commercial borrowings by the Eighth Plan period. Is it possible?

[Singh] Yes, it is certainly possible. We have restricted deliberately our recourse to foreign commercial borrowing to the barest amount necessary. We would work to the targets.

[Rao] You have a strong votary of financial sector reforms. At one stage, you spoke of setting up a bureau to check frauds in banks. We have not heard much after the

initial announcement in parliament. Are you waiting for the JPC [Joint Parliamentary Committee] to give its final report?

[Singh] We have looked at various models for the establishment of this bureau. We have looked at the model that prevailed in the United Kingdom. Our officers, including officers of the Reserve Bank, have gone abroad. But we are waiting for the report of the JPC before finalizing our stand on this issue.

[Rao] Sir, can we expect the lending rate to come down, now that we have got an excellent news on the inflation front, exports, industrial output, and so on?

[Singh] Lending rates are determined by the Reserve Bank of India [RBI]. The RBI will take into account all factors including inflation management, [and] other uncertainties in the situation. So it would not be proper for me to comment on what lending rates would be. But, I have said on more than one occasion that if inflation rate remains at modest level there would be an opportunity to adjust lending rates. But, I cannot say what will exactly be done. That's the preserve of the RBI.

[Rao] Tax collections last year were affected by the aftermath of Ayodhya developments. You were quoted as saying the revenue loss was about 5,000 crore rupees on account of these incidents. All the same, you have given more concessions in this year's budget. Is the trade and industry responding to your trust?

[Singh] We lost about 5,000 crores by way of customs revenues, and direct tax revenue loss. That I said was the economic cost of Ayodhya and the aftermath including the Bombay blasts. I hope this will be a temporary setback. And this year, if the economy grows as I expected by more than 5 percent, if industrial production revives as I expected too, if our exports do better so that imports can grow at a faster pace, revenues will, I think, pick up. We have some immediate problems in revenues. The April figures are not very encouraging, but we expect it will make up the shortfalls.

[Rao] Do you expect to keep up to the targeted level of budget deficit?

[Singh] Well, as of now it's my expectation that we will be able to contain the budget deficit as planned.

[Rao] Sir, your efforts at the decision level needs supports from the states. What is the response from them?

[Singh] States have their problems. The central government wherever possible is coming to the rescue of states. But I would certainly urge that states should take the task of controlling their deficit more seriously. There are several public sector areas in the state sectors. The performance of the state electricity boards is dismal. The states are not collecting adequate amount of returns from their public sectors. They are not collecting enough revenues to finance even the current cost of irrigation projects.

[Rao] Sir, at the time of presenting the budget you said that if the industry and trade fails to respond favorably and pass on the concessions to the consumers you will not hesitate to withdraw them?

[Singh] Yes, that's still my position. The minister for civil supplies has been having discussions with representatives of trade and industry. If we reach the conclusion that these concessions have not been passed on to the consumers we will certainly review the situation.

[Rao] Sir, I have two more questions. These are related to the financial sector. Since there has been a criticism against the way bank-board-level appointments are made. Do you intend to set up an independent agency— independent of Finance Ministry and government—for making these appointments?

[Singh] Well, we are in all these matters waiting for the report of the JPC. But I would say that we have already a board for making recommendations, which consists of the governor of the RBI, finance secretary, chairman of the State Bank of India, [and] chairman of the IDBI [Industrial Development Bank of India]. These are very responsible people and ultimately, of course, government and owners have to accept the responsibility of making these appointments. We will, however, review if there is anything needs to be done to streamline the present methods of appointment. We are, in this context, awaiting the suggestions of the JPC if they are going to touch upon this subject.

[Rao] Sir, is there any move to bring UTI [Unit Trust of India] under SEBI [Securities and Exchange Board of India]? If so, by when?

[Singh] Well, UTI is regulated by a separate act. UTI performs a function of a mutual fund. It also performs the function of an investment-lending institution. We are engaged in the discussions with the management of the UTI how over a period of time we can ensure that UTI can be brought under the discipline as like other mutual reserve funds. As I said it would require the bifurcation of the functions of the UTI. How this can be done, this is a matter we are discussing with the management of the UTI.

[Rao] How you intend to bridge the gulf between economic philosophy and the political realities on the issue of subsidies?

[Singh] Over a period of time we have to reduce subsidies. But at the same time we have to recognize there are poorer sections of our community who do require assistance. So we have to control subsidies, but at the same time recognize the need of the poorer sections of our community. Therefore, targeting a food subsidy, targeting a fertilizer subsidy is the way out. But, we cannot have a system where subsidies go on increasing in an open-ended manner. That's a road to disaster.

[Rao] Thank you, Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Investment Proposals Worth 6.2 Billion Rupees*BK2306162493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] The Cabinet Committee on Foreign Investment today cleared seven foreign investment proposals worth about 620 crore rupees. They include a joint venture for manufacturing passenger cars between an existing Bombay-based company and a renowned French manufacturer. It aims to produce 60,000 fuel-efficient cars per annum. The French company is expected to invest about 120 crore rupees.

Another proposal by a multinational soft drinks company is to set up a 100-percent-owned venture to manufacture beverage essence and beverage base. The company will invest 60 crore rupees and will redeploy the dividend amounts for the first seven years. The committee also cleared a proposal for an existing multinational beverage company to increase its equity holding in the Indian venture to 51 percent involving an investment of 18 crore rupees.

Another proposal is to construct an integrated steel plant in Maharashtra to manufacture 2 million tonnes of hot rolled coils per annum, using sponge iron. It will be the first plant to use German technology and will involve an NRI [Nonresident Indian] investment of about 90 crore rupees. A 25-crore-rupee proposal to manufacture non-molasses-based spirit and to produce 50,000 tonnes of fruit juices and fruit products was also cleared. The committee approved a 300-crore-rupee proposal to develop financial services, market and infrastructure. The company will operate a nonbanking financial institution. Yet another proposal is to set up an asset management company in the mutual fund industry. The company proposes to organize special schemes to attract foreign investments from institutional investors.

Commentary Details Foreign Investments Since 1991*BK2306145093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[P.C. Kapoor Commentary; all figures as heard]

[Text] It is time again for the annual stocktaking. Two years ago, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao took charge as the prime minister of India, heading a minority Congress-I government. With a series of unprecedented policy changes, the Rao government launched an ambitious reform program, restructuring a crisis-ridden economy.

Direct foreign investment in the country has increased 25 fold after the introduction of the new industrial policy 22 months ago. Ninety percent of the approved foreign investment was for high priority sector industries. Nine thousand six hundred industrial entrepreneurs memorandums involving proposed investments of rupees [Rs.] 2,170,000 million, estimated to generate employment for 20 lakh people, have been received by the government after the declaration of the new industrial policy.

Besides, 1,000 letters of intent have been issued for licensed industries and the government approvals indicated an increase of 60 percent investment intentions. Within 22 months of implementation of the new industrial policy, the Center has approved Rs. 76,000 million worth of foreign investments, 25 percent more than the corresponding year.

There has been an unprecedented response by the foreign investors to the new economic policies. During the first four months of the current calendar year, total foreign investment approvals amounted to Rs. 29,700 million as against Rs. 5,300 million in 1991 and Rs. 38,900 million for the whole year of 1992. Foreign investment approvals during second year of the new economic policy are nearly twice than those approved in the first year of the new economic policy. There are still three months remaining for completing the second year of the new economic policy.

Total foreign investments approved during August 1991 to April 1993 amount to Rs. 72,718.6 million, of which more than 90 percent has gone to high priority industries. The government has given approval of 114 projects till April 1993 involving foreign investments (with) an increase of 51 percent of foreign equity, and 48 projects have been allowed even with 100 percent foreign equity. It is noteworthy that more than 80 percent of tie-ups approved are in high priority industries. In the area of technical collaboration, more than 88 percent of foreign investment are in these high priority industries. The major share of foreign investment is in sectors like power, oil, food processing industries, chemicals, electrical and electronic equipment, telecommunications, transportation, industrial machinery, and hotel and tourism industry.

There has been a rise in investment from the USA from Rs. 344.8 million in 1990 to Rs. 12,315 million in 1992, and to Rs. 1,663,640 million in 1993, and there was rise in investments from Japan from Rs. 50 million in 1990 to Rs. 6,102.3 million in 1992, and Rs. 1,016.4 million in 1993. Similarly, there has been an increase in investments from Germany, Switzerland, Australia, UK, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, Italy, Sweden, Korea et cetera.

Recent changes in the policy toward foreign investment have become an integral part of the strategy of modernizing the economy and establishing global linkage, which will be of crucial importance in the emerging world economy. The budget for the year 1993-94 incorporates numerous (path-breaking) proposals to boost foreign investment in India. These proposals include full convertibility of rupee and massive cuts in import duties. Full convertibility has made the previous dual exchange rate system redundant, which did not give enough incentives to the exporters, nonresident Indians and other foreign investors. Big foreign investors tend to have plants in foreign countries which provide crucial inputs to the manufacture of the product. The previous regime

of high custom duties on imports had made their operation less profitable, which acted as a hurdle in increasing their investment participation in India. A further cut in the import and customs duties on the relevant product will now provide a filip in the investment activities in India. These measures will also help in the development of domestic industries, besides fostering a healthy competition. The areas which are going to be benefited by these cuts are capital goods, chemicals, electronics, metals, health care, computers, and agricultural machinery.

Five Killed in 'Militancy-Related Incidents'

BK2306150693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] In the Kashmir valley, five persons, including two militants, were killed in militancy-related incidents at different places during the past 24 hours. The security forces arrested 20 militants, including a self-styled group commander and a self-styled organizer of two different militant outfits. A sizable quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered by the security forces during search operations.

Leader Confident BJP To Be Ruling Party

BK2006103393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Jun 93 p 6

[Text] New Delhi—L.K. Advani firmly believes that the political situation in the country is irrevocably moving towards collapse of the Rao Government. A snap poll to the Lok Sabha may be held anytime between now and the end of the year.

It is in this context, he points out, that his immediate task is to correct the "erroneous" image of his party created by a slander campaign by its detractors and gear the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] to emerge as the ruling party at the Centre.

In an interview to the INDIAN EXPRESS on the eve of his departure for Bangalore on Sunday, the president-elect of the BJP said Chandraswamy's flop show had proved, if any proof was needed, that the Ayodhya movement had not lost its momentum.

How and when the issue could hot up again, depended on the government actions, he said.

Pointing that Ayodhya will be a major issue in the next elections, Advani said the only way to avoid it was to allow the construction before the polls. "Mandir waheen banega. (Temple will be constructed at that place only). No power on earth can stop it," he stressed.

Government bungling on the Kashmir front and illegal infiltration from Bangladesh would be the major issues raised by his party. He would continue the struggle for the revival of the four BJP governments illegally dismissed by the Centre, he said. He was also hopeful of a favourable judgment from the Supreme Court in the

matter. If that happened, it would be yet another resounding judicial slap on the face of Rao Government.

"In any case, elections to four Assemblies are due in November. The BJP will make a determined bid to return to power with bigger majorities and making it untenable for Narasimha Rao to continue without seeking a fresh mandate," he said.

Taking about his task to correct the party's image in the minds of a section of the people, Advani said the Government and party's political adversaries had launched a campaign of calumny and slander. It was being said that if the BJP came to power it would usher in a theocratic state, that minorities would become unsafe and that the country would be run as per the dictates of Manu Smriti.

He maintained that the masses did not seem to buy this propaganda as reflected in the swelling sympathy for the BJP, its emergence as a forerunner in the recently held byelections and its remarkable growth in West Bengal where it polled 16 percent votes in panchayat elections. However, the slander campaign had given the country a bad name, Advani said.

It would not be difficult to nail these lies, he said. "But the more important task is to dispel the growing cynicism and feeling of helplessness among the people," he said. The security of the nation and the citizens was on decline as highlighted by worsening situation in Kashmir, series of blasts in Bombay, corruption at top levels, securities scam and criminalisation of politics.

The BJP, he claimed, has the vision, the political will and the capacity to meet these challenges and restore public confidence in the efficacy of the political system.

He declined to comment on Chandra Shekhar's statement that BJP's lacked commitment to the Swadeshi movement, maintaining that the charge would be discussed in detail at an appropriate time.

Advani also brushed aside remarks about disharmony and lack of coordination in the organisational and parliamentary wings of the JP [Janata Party] during Joshi's stewardship.

Advani took a similar stand on the dissensions in the party, saying it was not a "worrisome" phenomenon. "Differences were natural in any party that is close to power. I have seen trouble even in the erstwhile Jana Sangh. It is nothing new. It has become talk of the town now because the party is occupying centre-stage."

The BJP leader said he would advise party cadres not to blame media as expectations from the BJP were much higher than from any other party. "However, the press has definitely exaggerated the infighting in BJP." All state unit party presidents, with exception of MP [Madhya Pradesh] and Himachal [Himachal Pradesh], were elected unanimously, he said.

The fact that the party could hold organisational elections was remarkable feat, he said. There was no need to amend the party constitution for updating it. The Bangalore session was likely to set up a committee for the job.

Though Advani admitted that party was weak in Punjab and Haryana, he blamed local factors for that. He said he would lay greater emphasis on strengthening the party in the South and the North-East. "The party has to pay more attention for building mass-base in areas where it is still weak."

Madhya Pradesh Governor Resigns 23 Jun

BK2306162293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of the governor of Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Kunwar Mahmud Ali. According to a spokesman of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House], Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma has asked the Bihar governor, Mr. Mohammad Shafi Qureshi, to discharge the functions of the governor of Madhya Pradesh in addition to his present duties. The governor of Himachal Pradesh, Mr. Bali Ram Bhagat, has been transferred to Rajasthan. In his place, Mr. Gulsher Ahmad has been appointed. His appointment will come into effect from the date of his assumption of office.

Iran

German Deputy Foreign Minister Visits, Holds Talks

Delivers Message for President

LD2306135293 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1315 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The German deputy foreign minister and special envoy of Chancellor Kohl, Mr. [Dieter] Kastrup, carrying a message for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, today met with Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mr. Va'ez, discussing with him expansion of bilateral ties and regional cooperation. At the meeting, the German official said European states attach significance to Iran and welcome its regional cooperation and free market policy. The German deputy foreign minister called for expansion of cultural ties between the two states. Welcoming the expansion of bilateral relations and regional cooperation, Mr. Va'ez elaborated on Iran's stance on various regional and international issues.

Discusses Ties, Bosnia With Velayati

LD2306184193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Dieter Kastrup, German state secretary at the Foreign Ministry, who is carrying a message from

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a meeting today with Foreign Minister Velayati, described the message as a sign of his country's interest in expanding ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Velayati, stressing the need for more diligence and care in international policies regarding complex events, criticized the shaky positions of some states in their foreign relations, and said that Bosnia-Herzegovina is the place for the implementation of such policies.

Meets Majles Vice Speaker Rohani

LD2306201993 Tehran IRNA in English 1950 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—German Deputy Foreign Minister Dieter Kastrup here today said that the arms embargo against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina must be lifted, and noted that his country opposes any formula for solving the crisis in that country that should disregard the rights of Muslims.

Kastrup in his meeting with Majles Vice-Speaker Hojjat ol-Islam Hassan Rohani said he was in Iran in a bid to broaden ties with the Islamic Republic.

He also said without elaborating that Germany will firmly confront terrorism on its soil such as the activities of Iranian counter-revolutionary groups.

The German official who is carrying a message from Chancellor Helmut Kohl for President 'Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, hoped the message would help promote mutual relations.

The Iranian official Rohani said that the Iranian Government was interested to broaden ties with Germany.

Later today, Kastrup met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and heard his criticism of the inconsistent and shallow-based policies of certain countries in their foreign relations, and especially as pertaining to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Velayati observed that homogeneity, consistency and firmness based on unalterable principles is an important weight in the balance of each country's foreign policy.

Security Council Annual Report Criticized

LD2306124193 Tehran IRNA in English 1219 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] United Nations, New York, June 23, IRNA—A number of Third World countries including Iran strongly criticized the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly in its Tuesday session.

Kamal Kharrazi, Iran's permanent representative to the U.N., addressing the session said, "the General Assembly should conduct a substantive and in-depth discussions on annual reports of the Security Council as well as other principal organs of the U.N."

He added that the report "does not commensurate [as received] with the expectations of the international community in the new international milieu."

The Iranian envoy criticized the attitude of the Security Council towards the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina (B-H) and Serbian aggression and genocide against the Muslim population of B-H.

Kharrazi said that unfortunately and in spite of the magnitude of Serbian crimes, the Security Council has "failed to act resolutely to redress this tragic situation. Had the Security Council abandoned its double standard policy and acted decisively when the Serbs started their aggression, as it did in case of the invasion of Kuwait, the world would not have faced the continuation of the abhorrent policy of the ethnic cleansing, its legitimization and dismemberment of a member state of the U.N. Organization."

In conclusion he called on the Security Council "to immediately lift the unjust arms embargo against B-H and take all necessary measures to stop the genocide and reverse Serbian aggression."

U.S. Uses 'Human Rights' as Intervention 'Tool'

LD2306184893 Tehran IRNA in English 1756 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today said human rights is a tool in the hands of U.S.-led arrogant powers to intervene in other countries domestic affairs.

He said that following the collapse of the eastern block, the U.S. has used, what he termed, "the export of the Islamic revolution of Iran" as an excuse to sell arms to the Third World, especially to the Persian Gulf states.

Western world and the U.S. are afraid of Islam as they are "hollow from inside," violating the very humanitarian values which they accuse Iran of violating, Besharati asserted.

According to Besharati, defending liberty and confronting the arrogant powers' plots such as the Middle East talks with the Zionist usurpers, is Iran's only 'crime'.

Human rights has come to mean "the Western culture" and is a tool to whitewash their intervention and aggression against the weaker countries, he said.

Referring to violation of minorities rights in the U.S., Besharati said that the U.S. accuses Iran of neglecting human rights while Washington itself has violated the most basic human rights by suppressing its defenseless minorities.

UN Veto Said Against Human Rights Principles

LD2306203593 Tehran IRNA in English 2003 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—First Vice President Hassan Habibi said here today that recognition of the veto power as a right befitting only a few member states of the United Nations and denying it to others is in itself against the principles of the human rights. He said as long as the U.N. suffers from that flaw it cannot truly claim to be concerned about the status of the human rights at the world level.

He said that already a number of world countries oppose the present composition of the U.N. Security Council and the veto power of only a few member countries of the U.N.

The Iranian official who was commenting on a statement of the U.N. representative at the human rights conference in Vienna that accused the Islamic Republic of trying to weaken the United Nations. [sentence as received] Habibi said it is the United States and certain other countries, and not Islamic Iran, that seek to weaken the United Nations.

He said the U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali had repeatedly said that the world body can do nothing without the consent of the countries that have the veto power, and observed that it seems the situation had weakened the U.N.

Larijani Comments on DPRK Talks, Beijing Visit

LD2306193193 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 23, IRNA—Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, 'Ali Larijani, said that he signed cultural agreements with China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea during his recent visit to Beijing and Pyongyang.

In an interview with IRNA today Larijani said the agreements were in the fields of film making, convention of cultural weeks, book publication, press, tourism, exchange of students and establishment of research centres.

Larijani was in Pyongyang for the fourth conference of ministers of information of non-aligned countries (COMINAC). On his way home he stopped over in the Chinese capital.

Larijani referred to COMINAC's inclusion of several Iranian proposals in its resolution such as a serious approach to the Bosnian issue, establishment of information banks in member states, support for journalists and providing sound and correct news to the world.

Larijani called his four-day visit to Pyongyang as "useful and fruitful" and said that his talks with various Korean, Pakistani and Afghan officials had been "very good and fruitful".

New Railroad Linked to Central Asian Republics

LD2306105093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Construction work on the international Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan [Tadjan] railroad, which started in the second half of last year, has made between 10 and 20 percent progress, and work is still continuing. This was announced by the deputy minister of roads and transportation of our country in charge of the construction and expansion of the railway network in the course of an inspection tour of a delegation from Uzbekistan composed of the deputy prime minister, ministers of roads and transportation and expansion of railways, deputy minister of roads transportation, and the deputy minister of foreign affairs in charge of Asia and Africa of that republic.

The international Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad is being constructed to establish a rail link through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran among the railway networks of the newly independent Central Asian republics, northeast Asia, Europe, and the Persian Gulf littoral states. It is 295 km long; 165 km is between Mashhad and Sarakhs inside the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the remaining 130 km from Sarakhs to Tajan is in the territory of the Turkmenistan Republic.

This project, which will be completed by the end of 1375 [Iranian year starting on 21 March 1996] at the latest will cost 325 billion rials. In the course of the construction of the international Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railroad, which is being constructed in seven different sections, in addition to the construction of 42 large bridges and 266 small and medium-sized bridges, there will also be three tunnels, which will be six km long altogether. The longest tunnel will be 2,605 meters long.

Iraqi Refugees Reluctant To Return Home

LD2306122193 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov. June 23, IRNA—No Iraqi refugee residing in this southern province has returned home during the past three months, said a local official here Wednesday. He added that during the period only 34 Iraqi refugees, settled in a refugee camp in the provincial city of Dezful, filed requests to return home, but they later changed their minds. The refugees reluctance to go back to Iraq is due to the chaos in Iraq and they prefer to remain in Iran as long as they are uncertain of the situation in Iraq.

Presently some 18,479 Iraqi refugees are living in refugee camps in the provincial cities of Shush and Dezful and nearly 10,000 others in other areas of the province including Dasht-e-Azadegan, he added.

According to the the Ahvaz-based office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) the

refugees practically stopped returning to Iraq since 13 months ago, with only one or two exceptions. However, before the period, some 28,000 of the refugees went back to Iraq.

Meetings between the Iran and Iraq based UNHCR officers which used to take place on the border regularly, facilitated the return of the Iraqi refugees. The meetings have been stopped for some time.

Iraqi Opposition Groups To Meet on Saddam Overthrow

LD2306161493 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1303 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, 23 Jun (KUNA)—Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has said that a small meeting will be held next month which will be attended by all Iraqi opposition representatives in order to discuss ways to stimulate the opposition's military and political operations and speed up the downfall of Saddam Husayn's regime.

Al-Hakim held a news conference today, and responded to a question by KUNA during a news conference by saying that a preparatory committee has been formed for the mentioned meeting and that consultations are ongoing between the opposition Iraqi factions to choose a venue for the meeting.

Al-Hakim indicated that Syria, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and northern Iraq are among the suggested choices for holding the minor meeting, which will group about 60 people.

The opposition leader said the meeting would confirm and reinforce the unity and independence of the Iraqi opposition in its political and military efforts to overthrow the regime of Saddam Husayn, and to stop any foreign power attempting to intervene and influence the work of the Iraqi opposition.

Al-Hakim expressed his satisfaction at the positive responses which his political and military plan to overthrow Saddam Husayn received from the governments and Iraqi opposition groups during his last tour to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Kuwait.

Al-Hakim noted that the discussions with officials in these states and with the leaders of Iraqi parties covered four basic points, namely: "The explosive conditions under which the Iraqi people have been living at home, in particular the steadfast popular resistance in the areas of the south and how to help it."

He added that the second point in his talks centered on "consolidating the unity of the Iraqi opposition and completing it in a way that will have a positive effect on all the political and military conditions relating to the efforts of the opposition."

Al-Hakim added that the third point in his talks was "to coordinate and consult with the states of the area," which he began over a year and a half ago during the conditions which existed in Iraq following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and on ways to topple Saddam Husayn." [quotation marks as received]

Al-Hakim stressed: We believe that with more coordination with the neighboring states, we will realize the common objective of the Iraqi people and the peoples of the area, namely the overthrow of Saddam Husayn." Al-Hakim added that the last subject he discussed with the governments of the neighboring countries was bilateral relations and joint cooperation.

In answer to a question, al-Hakim said that the Iraqi opposition does not need any military aid at the present time from the neighboring states, but he did not rule out the possibility of the opposition asking these states to supply it with specific weapons to confront the various types of weapons used by the Iraqi regime's forces in putting down the people, especially the inhabitants of the marshes.

Al-Hakim affirmed the need of the Iraqi opposition for moral and political support from the neighboring states in its struggle to topple Saddam Husayn.

In answer to another question by KUNA, al-Hakim confirmed the existence of a common understanding between Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia over backing the efforts of the Iraqi opposition to topple the Saddam Husayn regime. "His regime is a real danger to peace and security in the area."

Al-Hakim said that the resolutions which will emerge at the minor meeting of the Iraqi opposition parties will not be a substitute for the resolutions of the Iraqi national conference held at the Salah al-Din area in northern Iraq at the end of last year, but they will complement them.

Al-Hakim rejected press reports about a meeting between representatives of the Iraqi opposition and an envoy of the Iraqi regime in Washington to prepare for holding a national reconciliation meeting in Iraq.

The leader of SAIRI in Iraq affirmed that "the Saddam Husayn regime is not entitled to remain in power and it is not possible for us to make up with it."

Al-Hakim gave two reasons for the continuation of Saddam Husayn at the helm of power. The first is the savage and brutal methods he pursues against the people, and the second is the existence of an international fear lest the fall of the tyrant should lead to the disintegration of unity within Iraqi territory and the creation of a political vacuum which might benefit some neighboring states, like Iran, in extending its influence in the area.

Al-Hakim expressed the opinion that the possibilities of an Iranian military intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs is almost nonexistent. However, he did not elaborate.

Al-Hakim said he agrees with setting up a unified army for the Iraqi opposition as "a people's tactic and as a complementary action to the broad circles inside the Iraqi Army which reject the regime at the present time, and they have been sending strong signals expressing their rejection of the Saddam Husayn regime and their readiness to forge a cohesion with the Iraqi people."

Al-Hakim added that "the proposed unified army must not be a substitute for the regular Iraqi Army, but that it should complement it," in view of the great hopes that are pinned on it to topple the regime of Saddam Husayn.

In a clear signal to the United States, Russia, Britain, and France, without mentioning any names he said that some states are mistaken if they believe that the disappearance of Saddam Husayn would lead to the disintegration of Iraq or the outbreak of civil war for power.

Al-Hakim affirmed that the existence of Saddam Husayn in power "is the real cause for the dismemberment of Iraq, for the adverse conditions which prevail there, and for the great suffering that has befallen its people."

Al-Hakim expressed "regret" for the bloody events which had been witnessed at the Rafha' Iraqi refugee camp in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom in March, which resulted in a number of deaths among the camp population.

Interior Minister Releases Election Statistics

*LD2306171493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 Jun 93*

[Text] Following the confirmation of the results of the sixth round of presidential elections in Iran, Interior Minister Nuri- Hoseynabadi, in a radio and television news conference, provided full details of the presidential elections and their results.

Referring to the reports from the National Registry Office and the views of experts on demographic issues in the country, the interior minister said that the number of those who were eligible to vote was 29,481,955. Nuri said that the total number of ballot boxes in the country and abroad was 27,274. Of the eligible voters, 59.5 percent of them lived in cities and 40.5 percent lived in villages, while 60.9 percent of all those who voted were from cities and 39.1 percent were from villages.

He noted that on the basis of the studies which have been carried out, 58.45 percent of eligible voters in the cities and 55.19 percent of eligible voters in the villages took part in the elections.

Referring to the fact that there are 50,000 villages of more than 20 families throughout the country, Nuri said: To collect all the votes of the villagers, we need between 20,000 and 25,000 voting stations; in this round of presidential elections we had only 10,000 fixed and 2,000 mobile ballot boxes for our villages.

He added that 55.82 percent of all the voters in this election were male and 44.18 percent were female, with 73.63 percent being married and 26.32 percent single.

Further Election Details

LD2306194993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Following the Guardian Council's confirmation of the results of the sixth round of the presidential elections in Iran, Interior Minister Nuri-Hoseynabadi today provided full details of the elections at a news conference.

Referring to reports by the National Registry Office and to the views of experts in the country's demographic issues, the interior minister said that the number of those eligible to vote was 29,481,955. He said: Out of 16,796,787 votes cast, there were 16,479,117 correct ballots and 317,670 spoilt ballots. He added: Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani received 10,566,499 votes; Mr. Tavakkoli received 4,026,779 votes; Mr. Jasbi received 1,498,084 votes; and Mr. Taheri received 387,655 votes. [All figures as heard]

The interior minister said: In the recent elections, 60.09 eligible voters lived in cities, and 39.1 percent were from villages. [All figures as heard] [passage omitted]

More Statistics on Elections

LD2406090093 Tehran IRNA in English 0828 GMT 24 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 24, IRNA—An overall 16,796,787 votes were cast in the 6th presidential elections held June 11, announced Interior Minister 'Abdollah Nuri at a press conference here Wednesday. Disclosing the final results of the elections confirmed by the Guardians Council, he said of the total votes cast, some 317,670 were blank.

Incumbent president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani secured 10,566,499 votes, former Labor Minister Ahmad Tavakkoli 4,026,879, chancellor of the Open Islamic University [Jasbi] 1,498,084 and former Majles deputy Rajab-'Ali Taheri 387,655 votes, he said. Nuri added that a total of 27,274 ballot boxes were stalled throughout the country and at the diplomatic missions abroad.

He denied newspaper reports that some 33 to 34 million Iranians were eligible to vote and said only 29,481,955 Iranians residing inside and outside the country were entitled to vote. According to the figures, he said, some 56.97 percent of the electorate took part in the elections. Of the overall participants in the elections, 10,233,935, or 59.5 percent, were from the cities and 6,562,852, or 40.5 percent from villages, he noted adding that the lesser turnout of the villagers in the elections was partly due to certain difficulties prevailing in some of the villages.

The interior minister who was in charge of holding the elections further said that 105,524 Iranian nationals residing abroad took part in the elections of whom 60,000 were Iranian hajj pilgrims who cast their ballots in the booths stalled in Mecca, Medina and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia and 20,000 were those residing in the Persian Gulf littoral states. Of the total voters, 44.18 percent were female and the rest were male, he said.

As for the population growth rate, he put the figure at two percent presently adding that some six million Iranians have died during the past 15 years. According to him the mortality rate in 1356 (March 1977-March 1978) was 12 per thousand. At present, the figure stands at seven per thousand, Nuri said.

Nateq-Nuri: Presidential Election Neutralized Plots

LD2306195593 Tehran IRNA in English 1829 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Talesh (Gilan), June 23, IRNA—Majles Speaker Hojat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri said here today that the wide participation of Iranians in the presidential elections earlier this month "had neutralized the horrid designs of global arrogance."

The Majles speaker, who was addressing an assemblage of the common people at the grand mosque of the city, said that the people's braving of their various problems, as resolutely as they do, offers impetus to the government administrators.

Nateq-Nuri, who is touring Gilan Province along with a group of other officials, arrived in Hashtpar near here Wednesday and was greeted by a large group of well-wishers who strew flowers on his way as he entered the town.

Shortly after arrival he visited the 'Chouka' wood and paper factory near here. He then continued his northward itinerary to Astara, the northernmost city in the province.

'Geopolitics' of Iranian Islands Issue Analyzed

NC1906190093 Tehran PASDAR-E ESLAM in Persian 22 May-21 Jun 93 pp 34, 35, 36

[Commentary by Dr. Mohammad Reza Hafez-Niya: "The Geopolitics of the Three Islands (Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunbs)"]

[Excerpts]

Some Assumptions Regarding the Propounding of the Issue of Abu Musa:

For some time, the issue of Abu Musa has been propounded in the form of a crisis that is taking shape in the geopolitical region of the Persian Gulf. Even though it is in an embryonic stage, this crisis has not emerged from its political stage, and its political aspects seem to be

proliferating. If it is not contained, there is a great possibility that it will evolve into a problem for the Islamic Republic of Iran, the countries in the region, and even the world. The following assumptions may be presented on the situation that can emerge for Iran:

1. Preserving the Balance of Military Power in the Region:

As has been said earlier, the Abu Musa island is of geostrategic [preceding word in English] importance. [passage omitted]

From the point of view of the southern littoral states, as well as of the United States, the Abu Musa issue is quite meaningful as this island—because of its geographical location and its geostrategic role—can provide the opportunity for them to use their submarines, and it can also be used to control a large part of the Persian Gulf, its waterways, and the routes of their vessels.

Another point that should not be ignored is that United States will need to muster and accumulate forces in the region in order to combat Iran and this highlights the importance of submarines. These three islands can be used to station nuclear submarines, as well as other military units and vessels.

2. Exerting Pressure Against Iran Over its Political Stances:

Iran has adopted distinctive political stances on international and regional issues that conflict with the interests of the West, especially of the United States. Thus the issue of Abu Musa, in their opinion, is a lever of pressure against Iran and will force it to renege from its political stances on the international level. The following can be referred to as examples of the West's attacks on Iran's stances and policies:

A. The Arab-Israel Peace Issue:

The establishment of peace between the Arabs and Israel is considered a vital U.S. interest at this juncture, and the future strategic outlook for the Middle East region will also be useful for the United States at a time when there will be no differences between the Arabs and Israel and they adopt more amicable positions.

It is for this reason that the United States is of the opinion that some results should be achieved from these negotiations. It is the position of Iran that has affected the course of these peace talks and has hindered their progress. It was for this reason that, first of all, pressure was exerted by propounding the issue of Abu Musa. Second, by exacerbating the situation and internationalizing the issue, pressure was further stepped up so that Iran should relinquish its stance. By bestowing an Arab dimension on the issue, the differences between Iran and the Arabs could be further accentuated. This would result in the Arabs converging and adopting a united political stance against Iran regarding the Abu Musa issue and in this manner, the spotlight of the differences

and disputes among the Arabs and Israel would shift to Arab disputes with Iran. In other words, it would move from the eastern Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, and the Arab-Israeli differences would be on a rapid course toward peace.

In simpler words, the objective of propounding the Abu Musa issue is to seek a replacement for the adversary for the Arabs on the international scene. The United States wants to make the Arabs imagine that their foe is Iran instead of Israel, so that it can remove Israel from the orbit of opposition to the Arabs.

B. The Issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Iran's stance on Bosnia-Herzegovina and its popularity among the Muslims of that country has been construed as the emergence of an area of influence for Iran on the European continent and in the northern areas of the Mediterranean. This situation is intolerable for the United States, as it conflicts with the strategy of the United States and the West for restricting Iran's sphere of influence at the international level.

Thus, raising of the issue of Abu Musa in their opinion will, first of all, exert political pressure on Iran, and the latter will have to concentrate all its international efforts on the Abu Musa issue. Second, it would serve as a warning by the United States to Iran to abandon its interest in the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue, otherwise it would have to face the consequences.

C. The Issue of the Newly Liberated Central Asian Republics:

From the point of view of religion, history, culture, language, and geography, Central Asia has always had links with Iran and there are many common denominators between them. The collapse of communism and the Soviet Union culminated in a vacuum of power in the region, and a void regarding their all-encompassing political aspirations. With the emergence of the current local and regional situation in the Central Asian republics, the religious and cultural values have had a chance to surface. The homogeneity between the people of Iran and the people of the Central Asian republics in the above characteristics inherently demanded the presence of Iran in the region.

First of all, such a presence is in conflict with the U.S. strategy of imposing limits [on Iran]. Second, from the U.S. point of view, Central Asia is a repository of scientific, technological, and military potential, and its leaning toward Iran would result in the strengthening of Iran's political power—that is, the power of a rival to the United States—on the regional and international level, and naturally this is intolerable to the United States.

Third, the Central Asian region is situated between Iran and the PRC, and with the boosting of Iran's influence in the region, a complete corridor of contact between Iran and the PRC will be established. This would naturally strengthen ties between Iran and the PRC.

From a U.S. strategic point of view, Iran and the PRC are two competitors of the United States on the international level, and the union of U.S. rivals is contrary to its interests. In light of the above, according to the U.S. perspective, the Central Asian region assumes a geostrategic [preceding word in English] importance and therefore it is seeking to limit the presence and influence of the Iran in this region. To implement this policy, the United States is utilizing its regional levers such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, as well as its new friends such as Russia.

Thus, raising the Abu Musa issue is not only tantamount to a U.S. warning to Iran regarding our policy in Central Asia, but is also an effort to steer all Iran's diplomatic abilities away from Central Asia and toward the Persian Gulf.

3. Minimizing the Power and Prestige of Iran in the Persian Gulf Geopolitical Region:

In view of its being blessed with abundant and unrivalled energy resources, the Persian Gulf is considered the heartland [preceding word in English] of the world at present, and naturally, a government that can impose its influence in this strategic region and control it will be able to play a major role in the distribution and regulation of the world's energy and will consequently have an impact on the international system.

In continuation of its policy of leading and controlling the world, the United States is seeking to perpetuate its hegemony and control over the Persian Gulf by absorbing the southern littoral countries of the Persian Gulf. In the northern margins and in part of the Persian Gulf basin, Iran represents an intransigent rival in regard to its ownership, sovereignty, and competence in this region. This makes it a deterrent factor in the path of the international strategic success of the United States and thus takes on a greater importance from the U.S. point of view. [passage omitted]

Measures and Supervision by Iran Especially Regarding the Islands:

In view of the importance of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, especially of the trilogy of islands [Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunbs] on the national interests of Iran, the following actions and supervisory measures should be taken:

1. Injecting Population:

In view of the legal, economic, social, cultural, and political interests, the injection of population should take place whether it is on islands with sparse population or those without any people. Of course, this measure will depend on the creation of potential and conditions conducive to the absorption of the population.

2. Expanding Developmental and Economic Activities:

The coasts and islands in the Persian Gulf—except for a few areas that have been transformed into poles for

expansion—are considered undeveloped areas, and this disparity becomes even more evident when the northern areas are compared with the southern areas of the Persian Gulf. Considering the fact that the Iranian shores and islands in the Persian Gulf constitute a cohesive whole within a geographical area, it is essential that steps should be taken for their coordinated and comprehensive expansion within the framework of a program of regional expansion. In this regard, the broadening of economic activities on the basis of regional potential will be essential and, when this is achieved, will facilitate the injection and absorption of population.

3. Broadening Economic Activities:

The area under discussion, which is in a way undeveloped, is also lagging behind culturally and therefore scientific, cultural, and educational activities should also be simultaneously expanded along with development in other sectors, for the purpose of upgrading the level of the region, and rallying the necessary potential reserves.

4. Controlling the Activities of Others in the Region:

We should keep an eye on the economic, social, political, and military activities of all governments both in the region and outside it, and should analyze them so that we can preempt any suspicious activity. In this regard, setting up residential areas in the free-trade and industrial zones, especially in the Strait of Hormuz region, should be carried out with immense caution and a multifaceted study in view of the geopolitical situation in the Persian Gulf so that it does not pose problems for Iran in the future.

5. Maintaining a Cordial and Kind Attitude Toward the Residents of the Islands:

The residents of these islands, and especially those who are different in regard to social and cultural homogeneity, should be given special attention, and policies should be adopted to integrate and absorb them into the country. All kinds of policies that would drive a wedge between them should be refrained from. Of course, this measure would require specific study and the adoption of distinctive policies for its implementation.

6. Pursuing a Policy of Amicable Coexistence With Neighbors:

The continuation and consolidation, as well as the deepening of, this policy will bring neighbors closer and will help in mitigating ill feeling and the factors that generate discord, the lack of which will only result in driving our neighbors away from us, and they will be absorbed by extraterritorial powers such as the United States and other countries who are Iran's rivals and have already laid out the necessary traps for our neighbors.

Nepal

Communist Party Issues General Strike Call

BK2206162093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1415 GMT
22 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 22 (AFP)—A powerful Nepali communist party Tuesday called angrily for a general strike in the Kathmandu valley to protest a government report which attributed the deaths of two of its leaders to negligence.

Six other leftist factions voiced their support for the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) call for the one-day general strike Friday, to be accompanied by protest meetings and demonstrations.

The strike is intended to paralyse the three valley towns of Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur, which have a combined population of about one million people, party sources said.

The NCP-UML is angered over a one-man government judicial commission report on a jeep accident last month in which two of its senior leaders, Secretary General Madan Kumar Bhandari and Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit, were killed.

The government report, issued by former Supreme Court Justice Prachand Raj Anil, stated that the cause of the May 16 jeep accident was negligence.

It blamed the driver of the jeep, NCP-UML member Amar Lama, and dismissed the possibility that the accident had been pre-planned as alleged by opposition groups and local newspapers.

A separate report prepared by an NCP-UML commission, chaired by one of its own MP's, parliamentarian K.P. Oli, found that: "the NCP-UML leaders were not killed in the jeep accident but they were murdered in cold blood which was stage managed."

"The driver of the jeep is also deeply involved in this conspiracy," the party commission report said.

Party sources said the object of the strike was to press Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala into launching a fresh high level investigation commission under the chairmanship of a sitting justice of the supreme court.

They said the NCP-UML was demanding punishment for the "real culprits" in the accident which occurred in the mountainous Das Dhunga area 180 kilometres (112 miles) west of here.

The party had also alleged that former United States Ambassador to Nepal, Julia Chang Bloch, was involved in the conspiracy, an accusation that triggered communist attacks on the American Library building last Thursday, in which most of the building's windows were broken.

At least fifteen policemen and five activists including an NCP-UML parliamentarian were injured in the library attack, and a state-run Nepal Television camera smashed and its crew beaten.

The NCP-UML is expected to block the forthcoming session of the parliament unless the Koirala Government agrees to launch a new high-level probe into the accident, a senior NCP-UML leader said Tuesday.

The NCP-UML also called Tuesday for a burning torch demonstration in the three Kathmandu valley cities on the eve of Friday's strike, and for protesters to burn copies of the report Friday, the party sources said.

Pakistan

PDA To Join Committee on Constitution Amendments

BK2306155193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] has decided to join the committee set up to examine repealing the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution. According to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL, disagreeing with the nominations made by the National Assembly speaker, the alliance nominated its three members for the committee. They are: Mohammad Afzal Khan, deputy leader of the opposition; Chaudhary Aitzaz Ahsan, and Syed Parvez Ali Shah. The decision was taken at a PDA meeting in the Parliament House today. Later, a PDA spokesman said the decision was made after detailed deliberations with the final approval of opposition leader Ms Benazir Bhutto, who is in Karachi.

The PDA parliamentary party at its meeting in Islamabad today reviewed the latest political situation in the country and the proceedings of the National Assembly's budget session. The meeting was presided over by Syed Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, the deputy leader of the opposition PDA in the National Assembly.

Interior Minister on Kansai Raids, Government Powers

BK2306120993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
23 Jun 93 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, June 22—Federal Minister for Interior Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain has said the Federal government was not helpless before forces working against constitution and was fully aware to exercise its powers remaining within the limitations of constitution.

He was speaking on a call attention notice jointly moved by Mahmood Khan Achakzai, Liaquat Baloch, Mohammad Afzal Khan, Rafiq Ahmed Mahesar and Muhammad Ajmal Khan Khattak in the National Assembly Tuesday.

The members called the attention of the Interior Minister to the raids by Frontier constabulary to arrest some persons from [words indistinct] of Governor, Chief Minister or provincial government.

Interior Minister said that the Federal government was not bound to take permission from Governor before going for action like raids. He further said that on June 16, raids on nine different places in Balochistan were conducted to arrest Aimal Kansi who was allegedly involved in killing two CIA agents on January 25 in USA.

Chaudhry Shujaat said these raids were conducted after informing Home Secretary Balochistan and some people were arrested who were released later.

On this occasion a JI [Jamaat-i-Islami] member in the National Assembly on a point of order said it seemed from the statement of Governor of Balochistan that the permission from him or Balochistan government was not sought for conducting these raids.

He said violation of constitution leads the country to political crisis. He was of the view that if Governor violates constitution then this matter should be brought before the notice of National Assembly.

Balochistan Governor Meets President on Problems

BK2306130893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The Balochistan governor, Sardar Gul Mohammad Jomezai, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today. He discussed with the president the political situation obtaining in Balochistan and the development problems. The president assured him all help in resolving the problems of the province.

Sharif Visits Bosnian Refugees, Inspects Facilities

BK2306151693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, today visited Madinatul Hujjaj where the Bosnian Muslims have been temporarily housed. They were brought from Croatia by two special flights. The lives of these twice-removed refugees had become endangered after the people and the government of Croatia adopted a hostile attitude toward them. The prime minister visited various sections of the complex and saw for himself the facilities provided to the Bosnian Muslims. He inquired about their welfare and living conditions.

Later, addressing a gathering of Bosnians, the prime minister said Pakistan will continue its firm support for the legitimate government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The prime minister said Pakistan supports the Bosnian Muslims' cause very strongly and we hope they will succeed

in their struggle for their legitimate rights. He said a site has already been selected in the mountains of Mansehra where the Bosnian Muslims will be provided accommodation. He said the Pakistani nation is honored to receive the Bosnian guests and is proud of this.

A high-level meeting in Islamabad reviewed the arrangements being made to provide all possible help and assistance to Bosnian refugees in Pakistan. The Bosnian ambassador to Pakistan, Mrs. Seljida Silajdzic, also attended the meeting. The meeting considered various matters relating to the welfare of the Bosnian refugees including accommodation, health and education. The Bosnian ambassador appreciated and expressed complete satisfaction over the arrangements made for the Bosnian refugees.

Police Official Picked as Intelligence Bureau Chief

BK2306114393 Islamabad THE NATION in English 23 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad (NNI)—The Federal government has decided to appoint a high government official of the police service Khawar Zaman as new chief of the Intelligence Bureau. A notification regarding his appointment will be issued within a week.

General Beg on Nuclear Tension With India

BK2306120193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 22 Jun 93 p 7

[Article by General Mirza Aslam Beg, former chief of the Army Staff: "Pakistan's nuclear programme: a national security perspective - III"]

[Text] India's inventory of nuclear facilities makes an impressive reading. Its nuclear infrastructure comprises the largest unsafeguard group of nuclear facilities outside the five nuclear weapon countries.

At the end of 1990, India had an inventory of over 2 tons of plutonium in its safeguarded nuclear power plants. The unsafeguarded plutonium inventory was about 1200 kg, out of which weapon-grade unsafeguarded plutonium was about 600 kg. In addition India has built an ultra-centrifuge enrichment facility consisting of several thousand centrifuges near Bangalore. From the purely technical point of view, it appears that besides having stockpiled enough weapon-grade plutonium for 60 devices, India already possesses the capability to produce at least 20 more devices per year. It is thus possible that by the mid-1990's India could have nuclear material for manufacturing 200-300 nuclear weapons.

Alongside acquisition of necessary know-how, facilities and materials for the construction of nuclear devices, India is fast proceeding with the development of a viable delivery system. This consists of several hundred aircraft with a range of 300-1000 km each capable of carrying nuclear weapons. India has a very aggressive programme

for the development of long-range missiles. It has already tested the intermediate range ballistic missile Agni with a range of 2500 km. Its range can be doubled and accuracy improved, in addition. India is also known to have a strong interest in building its own nuclear submarines. It obtained on loan one nuclear submarine from Moscow for training purposes which has helped it to acquire technical know-how for developing the design of its own nuclear submarines.

India has all along maintained that the NPT is discriminatory and that it will not sign the Treaty even if Pakistan did so. It says that the NPT misdefines proliferation by confining it to horizontal proliferation only and does not take into account the security threat perception of developing countries. New Delhi also says that the Treaty creates two sets of values and is rooted in the erroneous assumption that the whites are more responsible in handling nuclear technology than the coloured. It says that the Treaty aims at denying technology to the developing countries behind the moralistic facade of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and [words indistinct] to perpetuate the political and economic domination of the advanced industrial nations.

Rejecting the regional approach, New Delhi says that proliferation is a global problem and must be tackled as such. It also mists that no non-proliferation regime will be acceptable to it which does not take into account the China factor and India's threat perception from it.

India's initial response to the 5-nation nuclear moot proposed by Pakistan was a firm "No", but now it says it is willing to discuss the issue bilaterally with the US and Pakistan within the framework of India's overall nuclear policy. This way, India seeks to counter increasing international pressure on it to respond to nuclear non-proliferation proposals. India hopes that once a vast, irreversible nuclear infrastructure and delivery system is in place, it will further improve its position on the international chess-board of power. It seeks entry into the nuclear club of [words indistinct] and a permanent seat on the Security Council.

It thinks that the reality of its nuclear explosion of 1974, a strong nuclear infrastructure, credible delivery system, strategic location and vast size will be difficult to ignore in any future re-ordering of the UN system. It therefore seeks to postpone any negotiation with a view to further strengthening the reality of its capability and thereby its bargaining position.

Robert Gates' new stance as brought out by Seymour Hersh is a new nuance of propaganda against Pakistan. It is being depicted as a "trigger happy" and an irresponsible nuclear power. It projects Pakistan as an irresponsible state which needs to be told not to use nuclear "weapons". Moreover it is to be shown that it cannot possibly win a nuclear war against India. All this partisan approach goes to prove that India has no desire to use nuclear weapons, unless Pakistan provoked it to retaliate in kind. A close look at the American policy towards

Pakistan indicates that America has been unduly hard on Pakistan hoping that it would relent and roll back its nuclear programme. All military and economic aid has been suspended to Islamabad since 1990, under the Pressler Amendment. But this policy has not worked. In fact, Washington may have realised by now that its own non-proliferation goals might have been defeat in the process. This lack of symmetry in the treatment of Pakistan and India has been looked upon as brutally unfair to Pakistan.

There is a growing realisation by the international community that there should be strict controls over all types of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons. Thus the end of the Cold War has improved the prospects of meaningful disarmament. The signing of the landmark START-II Treaty early this year is a significant step towards some reduction of nuclear arsenals. As the prestige and aura associated with [words indistinct] fading and it is largely believed that nuclear weapons are unusable, nuclear disarmament has moved up on the international agenda of the sole surviving superpower, i.e., the US.

Our proposal that both India and Pakistan sign the NPT and that South Asia be declared a nuclear-weapon free zone has not worked because the concept of a nuclear weapon-free zone does not provide for the denuclearisation of nations which have already gone nuclear. Nor have any foolproof verification measures been devised so far which could divest a country of weapon-grade fissile material or weapons which it is known to possess or has produced. The same argument applies if both Pakistan and India were to enter the NPT fold as non-nuclear weapon states.

The real issue is how India and Pakistan, both possessing advanced nuclear capability, can continue to act as non-nuclear weapon states. That is the issue which must be addressed rather than chasing the elusive goal of nuclear weapon-free zone or NPT as has been proposed by Pakistan for the past two decades.

That is perhaps why Washington is now not pressing New Delhi to sign the NPT. Instead, it is exerting pressure on both India and Pakistan to promote 'nuclear restraint'. [Words indistinct] the nuclear capabilities of the two countries at the lowest possible levels—the present ones if that can be achieved. It is widely suggested in Washington that efforts be made to cut off fissile materials production under safeguards.

The recent report prepared by the Carnegie Study Group of US- Indian Relations in a Changing International Environment included such well-known India friends as Stephen Solarz and Peter Galbraith as well as former Ambassador to Islamabad Oakley and Richard Hass, the senior White House official under President Bush dealing with the South Asian region. The Study Group report says: "Instead of pursuing the unattainable goal of seeking to induce India to give up its nuclear option, the US should shift from a focus on non-proliferation in

South Asia to a policy designed to maintain nuclear restraint. Such a policy would seek to freeze the stockpile of fissile material, the development of military related nuclear capabilities and the development, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles by both India and Pakistan. The most effective way to pursue this perspective would be to draw India and Pakistan into worldwide agreements barring further nuclear testing and production of fissile materials by any state.

"Thus efforts should be made for the capping of nuclear programmes of the two countries with some kind of verifiable stand-offs short of a deployed nuclear capability, instead of demanding a unilateral roll back or signing of NPT."

Both India and Pakistan must learn the lessons of the nuclear age. It is myth that nuclear secrecy enhances security. Perhaps survival in the nuclear age depends upon transparency in the nuclear field. This is because too much secrecy leads to suspicion which can in turn lead to unpredictable behaviour based on fear and mistrust. Both Pakistan and India have moved in the right direction by signing an agreement not to attack each other's nuclear installations. But much more needs to be done to defuse nuclear tension, for instance, allowing a peep into each other's nuclear secrets. Immediately, nuclear hotlines should be established to exchange nuclear information.

Given the state of tension and mutual mistrust and suspicion between India and Pakistan with issues like Kashmir, the Babri Masjid [mosque] demolition, the allegation of sponsoring terrorism against Pakistan, it is dangerously tempting for each to launch an attack before being attacked which could escalate to a nuclear level. Such a possibility demands the setting up of elaborate command control and communication structures as was done by the US and ex-USSR during the Cold War days. This is more necessary in case of India and Pakistan where there can be a real danger of nuclear accident and unauthorised use of nuclear weapons due to the absence of a failsafe system etc. It took both the US and ex-USSR several years and massive investments to guard against such real dangers and build an effective command, control and communication system. But Pakistan and India may neither have the resources nor the capability to develop such a system for ensuring nuclear safeguards and security. It therefore makes a great deal of sense if the United States and other nuclear powers share with us the know-how for storage of fissile nuclear materials, preventing their falling into unauthorised hands, and communication systems to avoid an accidental nuclear war.

There is a general consensus that a nuclear policy if applied symmetrically to both countries would be accepted by the domestic public, which is increasingly anxious over a nuclear arms race in South Asia. Securing a regional standstill rather than a roll back would be the first, eminently double part of new non-proliferation

package. By first levelling the nuclear playing field, the stage would be set to effectively pursue the goal of non-proliferation.

This new nuclear bargain must envisage solemn assurance by both countries to freeze their stockpiling of weapons-related fissile material as well as to freeze activity in all areas where nuclear capability and delivery systems are being developed: missile, targeting and rocket booster programmes. Implementation of the plan of such a freeze could be a bilateral agreement banning nuclear testing. This should be followed by a gradual approach towards a comprehensive system of confidence building and security-building measures.

In sum, nuclear collision can be averted in South Asia if the element of restraint is enforced now. A freeze would put both countries on the path of nuclear [words indistinct] interests in either country. Hopefully, it would be acceptable to both countries. It will also offer crucial breathing time to design a more comprehensive non-proliferation regime.

Foreign Secretary Visits UK, Discusses Kashmir

BK2306133093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] Pakistan's foreign secretary, Mr. Shaharyar M. Khan, has had meetings with senior British officials in London as part of regular consultations between the two countries. The foreign secretary, who is now back home, discussed with senior British Foreign Office officials Kashmir, Bosnia, economic cooperation and other matters of mutual interests. He briefed them on recent developments in occupied Kashmir and expressed Pakistan's concern over induction of two extra army divisions by India in the occupied territory and repressive measures being taken by the Indian troops. The foreign secretary expressed Pakistan's willingness to participate in the UN peacekeeping operations in Bosnia provided the Pakistani troops are provided with required heavy equipment.

Sri Lanka

LTTE To Release 39 Detainees in Exchange for Goods

BK2306131693 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Jun 93

[Text] In a significant breakthrough in Sri Lanka's lingering ethnic crisis, the government has agreed to allow supplies of fuel, medicine, and bicycle to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] stronghold of Jaffna, while the militants would release 38 policemen and a soldier held captive since 1990. An agreement was signed by the Jaffna government agent, K. (Manikawasugal), and Brigadier Ananda Weerasekera for the government; and the LTTE theoretician, Dr. Anton Balasingham; and other political representatives at Jaffna. The officials said that first batch of five ailing policemen,

accompanied by their kith and kin, were flown to Colombo by Sri Lanka Air Force aircraft yesterday. The rest of the detainees, who have been released, are staying in a hotel in Jaffna and will be brought to Colombo once the government finalizes the arrangements for the shipment of the agreed items to Jaffna.

The government agreeing to lift the ban on the supplies of petrol, diesel, stationery, medicines, transistor sets, fertilizers, coconut oil, bicycles to Jaffna Peninsula marks a new phase in the more than decade-old ethnic crisis. Political circles in Colombo view the latest development in this regard as significant and feel that the government's gesture in allowing the flow of petrol and diesel to the LTTE-held areas signals a new approach of D.B. Wijetunge government to resolve the ethnic crisis.

Military Concerned Over Shipments to LTTE Areas

*BK2406095593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0817 GMT
24 Jun 93*

[Text] Colombo, June 24 (AFP)—Sri Lankan security forces nervously watched as authorities Thursday sent strategic commodities to rebel-held areas in exchange for 39 security personnel held by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Senior military officials privately expressed concern over allowing fuel and bicycles to the war-torn northern Jaffna peninsula as they could improve the mobility of Tamil combatants fighting security forces.

Under an agreement Tuesday with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the government had agreed to send seven banned items to the rebel-controlled peninsula in exchange for the 39 security personnel.

The LTTE freed five policemen Tuesday but said it would free the rest after Colombo shipped limited quantities of fuel, medicines, bicycles, boxes of matches, fertilizer, stationery, and transistor radios to Jaffna.

"Our blockade was hurting the Tigers. We had the noose tightening around the necks. Allowing fuel to Jaffna now

is like giving them oxygen," a senior military official who did not want to be named said.

"The Tigers have always come up with some plan or other to get out of a difficult situation," he added.

Local newspapers expressed caution over the latest deal.

"The LTTE has always demonstrated a willingness to negotiate at periods when it felt the heat of offensive military action and needed time to re-arm and regroup," the DAILY NEWS said.

The newspaper said the Tigers would have to demonstrate its bona fides if it was serious about negotiating for peace and warned the government not to allow the LTTE to buy time.

The government has banned the transport of 48 items, including sweets, aspirins, sanitary napkins, plastic basins etc, as part of a sweeping economic blockade on the peninsula for the past three years.

Moves were afoot to send some of the seven items overland through at least one access route to the peninsula. Free movement of civilians or vehicles is not possible since all routes are manned either by the military or rebels.

The first shipment to the north would contain substantial quantities of diesel, medicine and fertiliser, officials said, adding that the commodities were being loaded onboard a ship at the main port here.

Scores of people in Vavuniya snapped up bicycles and dry battery cells to be taken to Jaffna, further north, as soon as they heard about Colombo's decision to partially lift the economic embargo.

"It was like a carnival in Vavuniya. Shops ran out of bicycles. They were taking petrol, battery cells and medicine across the government checkpoint onto the LTTE-controlled areas," Tamil politician Dharmalingam Sidhathan said.

Bicycles are a common mode of transport in the north where the LTTE has imposed its own restrictions on the purchase and distribution of essential items.